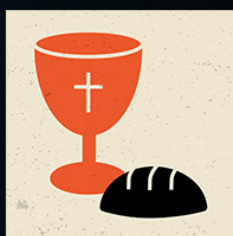
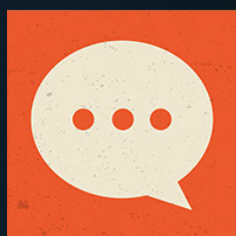


# PRAISE!



“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed;  
save me, and I shall be saved,  
for you are my praise.”

J E R E M I A H 1 7 : 1 4 N R S V U E

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKBOOK

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MAY 20-22

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# WELCOME FROM BISHOP MOORE-KOIKOI

*“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved,  
for you are my praise.” - Jeremiah 17:14 NRSVue*

Beloved Siblings,

I greet you in the name and with the love of Jesus who is the Christ.

I am excited because in just a few weeks we will be gathering in Wildwood for our 2025 Session of Annual Conference. The Annual Conference, which the Constitution of The United Methodist Church identifies as the fundamental and basic body of the church, is made up of clergy and laity who have been elected by their local congregation or districts to serve as lay members of Annual Conference. The purpose of the Annual Conference is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God” (¶ 601, 2020/2024 Book of Discipline). It is with the purpose in mind that we will gather.

This year as we gather our theme of “Praise” will help to frame our purposeful time together. As an annual conference we are journeying through a season of intentional healing. We have named our woundedness. We have lamented together. We are currently praying over our wounds. The next leg of our journey will be to praise together. Jeremiah is one of the many biblical references that reminds us of the connection among our healing, our salvation, and our praise. Praise is an essential part of healing. Therefore, so that we might have an opportunity to experience wholeness, we will praise together at annual conference.

I will acknowledge that when they arrive at annual conference some, for a variety of reasons and circumstances, may not be in a place where they feel like praising. However, the psalmists declares, “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1). Philippians 4:4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” Praise is a liturgical act we do in response to God’s love which is present in the midst of all of our feelings and circumstances. And praise just happens to be a means of grace through which God often provides healing.

So, come to the 2025 Session of Annual Conference prepared to praise. Also come prepared to do purposeful holy conferencing. Make sure you have read each piece of legislation. Take time to have prayerful discussions with God about the legislation. After praying about the legislation, discuss it with members of your local congregation. Discuss it with your colleagues on your district. And then come to Annual Conference with an open mind and spirit, expecting that, through the process of holy conferencing and praise, God will provide you and the whole body with further discernment regarding the legislation.

I can’t wait to meet you there!

Peace and blessings,



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

# AGENDA

## AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20

- 12:30 p.m. Optional Communion with EPA&GNJ led by Bishop Moore-Koikoi
- 1:00 p.m. Open Registration & Fellowship (refreshments available)  
Exhibits
- 3:00 p.m. Clergy Executive Session . . . . . Ballrooms  
Laity Session . . . . . West Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Clergy Dinner . . . . . Ballrooms  
Laity Dinner . . . . . East Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Clergy organize for Processional/Robing . . . . . Ballrooms
- 7:00 p.m. Commissioning and Ordination Worship & Service of Passage with Anointing
- 9:00 p.m. Dessert Reception (All Welcome) . . . . . Ballrooms

## AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts.
- 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach . . . . . Convention Center Deck Ocean Side
- 8:15 a.m. Praise and Worship
- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Bible Study . . . . . West Hall
- 9:15 a.m. Organizing the Conference
- 9:30 a.m. State of the Church Report
- 10:00 a.m. **Business and Legislation:**  
Truth and Healing Commission [\[PAGE 14\]](#)  
2025 EPA LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team Resolution [\[PAGE 18\]](#)  
Arena Charge Conference Form Submissions [\[PAGE 20\]](#)  
Federated Closure Legislation [\[PAGE 22\]](#)  
Church Closures [\[PAGE 23\]](#)
- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service of Remembrance
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch . . . . . East Hall and East Deck  
Bishop’s Luncheon with memorial service families
- 1:30 p.m. Praise and Worship . . . . . West Hall
- 1:40 p.m. Scholarship Appeal and Offering
- 1:45 p.m. **Business and Legislation:**  
Constitutional Amendments [\[PAGE 64\]](#)  
EPA Nominations/Leadership Report [\[PAGE 24\]](#)  
Land lease between Welltower Inc. and Carson Simpson Farm Christian Center [\[PAGE 53\]](#)  
Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2026 [\[PAGE 54\]](#)  
Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement of the Compass Plan for the Year 2026 [\[PAGE 56\]](#)
- 3:45 p.m. Monitoring Report
- 4:30 p.m. Mission Project
- 5:45 p.m. Adjourn for the Day
- 6:00 p.m. Retiree, Provisional & Ordinand Dinner  
Dinner for groups and individuals at the convention center (pre-arranged)

## AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, MAY 23

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own. Group prearranged breakfasts
- 7:45 a.m. Communion on the Beach . . . . .Convention Center Deck Ocean Side
- 8:15 a.m. Praise and Worship
- 8:30 a.m. Early Morning Bible Study . . . . . West Hall
- 9:00 a.m. Reading the Appointments. . . . . West Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Monitoring Report
- 9:45 a.m. **Business and Legislation:**  
Ministerial Pension Rate for Pre-82 [\[PAGE 58\]](#)  
Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons [\[PAGE 59\]](#)  
Advanced Specials [\[PAGE 60\]](#)
- 11:00 a.m. Closing worship with Communion
- 12:00 p.m. Adjournment

# GREETINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Dear Annual Conference Lay and Clergy Members,

Welcome to the 2025 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference! The in-person session will return to the Wildwood Convention Center from May 20 to 22, 2025. We look forward to gathering for worship, business, and fellowship.

This 2025 Pre-Conference Workbook will serve as a valuable resource for you as an active member of the 2025 Annual Conference Session. Please have it available as you attend the Conference. Alternatively, the Pre-Conference Workbook is available online and can be downloaded from the EPA website. These pages include reports, legislation, and nominations received for consideration at the Annual Conference. We have included all legislation submitted by the deadline of January 15, 2025.

This year, 2025, the Annual Conference will vote on four Constitutional Amendments proposed by the 2020/2024 General Conference. Please refer to the Table of Contents for important information regarding the amendments, eligibility, and the voting process.

If this is your first Annual Conference as an active member, there are resources to support your participation in and follow-up on the conference's activities. The Rules of Order, Name Badge, and Voting Rights chart will help you understand the conference's business. We hope the workbook proves useful as you share it with your congregation and participate in the worship, business, fellowship, and celebration at the 2025 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.

The 2025 EPA Conference begins with badge distribution at the Welcome Desk at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, at the Wildwoods Convention Center in Wildwoods, NJ. Please see the Agenda in this booklet or online for the complete conference schedule.

I look forward to meeting you as we come together for Holy Conferencing, meaningful fellowship, and the celebration of our joyful unity in the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim  
Conference Secretary,  
Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

## NAME BADGES & VOTING RIGHTS

| Badge Color                       | Affiliation  | Voting Rights   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Yellow</b><br>¶602.4<br>¶602.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected Lay Member, Youth-Young Adult Elected Member, At-Large Member/Equalizing Lay Delegate</li> <li>Diaconal Minister, Deaconess, Home Missioner under appointment</li> <li>Conference Lay Leader, District Lay Leader, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Conference UWF President, Conference UMM President</li> </ul> | <p>May vote on all matters except granting or validation of license, ordination, reception into full conference membership, or any question concerning the character and official conduct of ordained ministers.</p> <p>Lay members who are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Committee on Investigation can vote on all matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> |
| <b>Red</b><br>¶602.1              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full connection (Elder and Deacon)</li> </ul>   | May vote on all matters except election of lay delegates to General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences.   |
| <b>Blue</b><br>¶602.1c            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate Members</li> </ul>  | <p>May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> <p>Associate Members that are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p>  |
| ¶602.1b                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional Members (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have completed educational requirements towards ordination</i>)</li> </ul>   | May vote on all matters of the annual conference except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.   |
| ¶602.1d                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Time/Part Time Local Pastors (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election</i>)</li> </ul>  | <p>May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p> <p>Licensed Local Pastors that are elected members of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry have the right to vote at clergy session on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.</p>   |
| <b>Green</b><br>¶602.1b<br>¶346.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional Members (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed educational requirements toward ordination</i>)</li> <li>Affiliate Members (<i>when determined credentials are equal to Elders in Full Connection while under appointment</i>)</li> </ul>   | May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.   |
| ¶602.1d                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Time/Part Time Local Pastors (<i>under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed course of study or an M.Div. degree</i>)</li> </ul>   | May vote on all matters except constitutional amendments, election of delegates to the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences, and matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy.  |
| <b>White</b><br>¶320.5<br>¶602.1c | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired Local Pastors</li> <li>Affiliate Members (<i>when determined credentials are not equal to Elders in Full Connection while under appointment</i>)</li> </ul>   | May attend with voice but not vote.   |
| <b>Teal</b><br>¶602.9             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors, Student Pastors (from other conferences), Lay Missionaries</li> <li>Members of Other Conferences</li> <li>Interim Supply Pastors</li> </ul>   | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.   |
| <b>Pink</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference Staff Members</li> </ul>   | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.   |
| <b>Purple</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official Guest and Episcopal Staff</li> </ul>   | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.   |
| <b>Orange</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-Voting Youth</li> </ul>   | No vote and no voice unless granted on the floor.   |

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS

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## NARBERTH LEGACY ACTION MINISTRY GRANT

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Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Narberth UMC Legacy Ministry Action Fund was created after the sale of Narberth United Methodist Church in 2014. After intense discernment and prayer, the remaining membership of Narberth UMC felt called to seed new ministries and leave a legacy of their more than 135 years of faithful witness as a congregation in the United Methodist Church. Although they are no longer a worshipping congregation, through this fund their witness continues.



### **NOMINATION: THE CENTER FOR URBAN MINISTRY, MYRA MAXWELL**

Rev. Myra Maxwell has a passion for reaching new people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Under Rev. Maxwell's leadership, The Eastern PA Conference is developing a Center for Urban Ministry that engages church and community leaders together. The Center for Urban Ministry will be housed at the United Methodist Philadelphia Center for Urban Ministry, a place where all ages can gather for worship, community meetings, small conferences, training, youth activities, community resources, healing circles, community Bible Study and more can be hosted. Each week the new church start and community center participants gather for worship, training, prayer and resourcing events. We celebrate the vision of Rev. Maxwell and the work of the Center, as they live out the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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## HARRY DENMAN AWARD

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### **CLERGY NOMINEE: CANDY LABAR (BETHLEHEM: WESLEY UMC - NORTH DISTRICT)**

Pastor Candy Labar's enthusiasm for the Gospel and her love of the Word shine through in all she does to lead her ministry. Her greatest evangelistic effort at Wesley Church is the Artist of the Week Program. Each week, one student from the preschool program is chosen as the artist of the week. Their artwork is showcased in the atrium, and families are invited to attend worship as their children are recognized during the service. In addition to engaging preschool families, Pastor Labar lifts up laity and encourages them to use their gifts in ministry, leading studies, reading books to preschoolers, growing food in the community garden, and so much more. Her efforts are bearing fruit; more and more people are walking through the door on Sunday mornings.

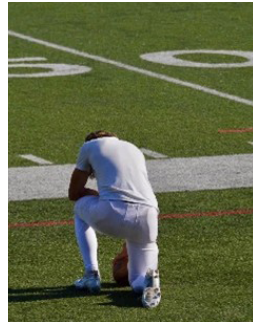


### **LAY NOMINEE: BETTY HENDERSON (MOTHER AFRICAN ZOAR - EAST DISTRICT)**

Miss Betty has been a servant of Mother African Zoar for decades. She has not only served as a Sunday school teacher and treasurer, but she has also ushered countless souls to Christ. Whether inviting people to church, helping to plan community events, or serving a family who has just lost a loved one, Betty impacts everyone she touches. She has transformed many pew sitters into church leaders. Not only does she grow leaders within the church, but



Miss Betty also shares her testimony every chance she gets. She clearly states how Jesus transformed her life and can do the same for others. She is the true definition of evangelism and witness.



### **YOUTH NOMINEE: EVAN GARRETT (REEDERS UMC - NORTH DISTRICT)**

Evan Garret displays a passionate love for Jesus. As an active member of Sunday School, youth group, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Evan shares his faith both in church and at school. He leads game day prayers for his high school football team, moving both his teammates and his coaches with his faith. His personal sharing has reached other school athletes, and some have come to worship and youth group

events with him. Evan recognizes that serving Jesus Christ goes beyond just talking about the faith; it also involves serving those in need. He always volunteers to help cook and serve community meals at Reeders UMC.

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## **HERBERT E. PALMER AWARD**

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### **EAST DISTRICT: REV. LISA DEPAZ (NORRISTOWN HAWS AVE UMC)**

Under the Pastoral Leadership of Lisa DePaz and the support of UMC churches of the area, (Mission Link), Haws Avenue UMC has embraced the mission of mercy and justice to help the marginalized, forgotten, and rejected of the Norristown Community. This community according to local statistics has become a high-risk area, with a high percentage of poverty, mental health problems, and crime. During this year, their church has served hot meals to about 175 people on Sundays, Mondays, and special occasions such as Easter, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving. In addition, they provide fresh and canned food to more than 75 families twice a month. In 2024, Haws Avenue UMC opened its doors for 86 days, welcoming more than 2,795 people, and offering them a safe and comfortable sanctuary to spend the night. Recipients each day have a clean bed, light dinner, and breakfast. In the area of immigration, two offices have been set up that provide free legal advice to those in asylum and U visa processes, TPS, and special status to minors to obtain residency, which allows their guardians or parents to access work permits and protection from deportation.



At the community level, Pastor Lisa is a member of GNAM (Great Norristown Area Ministerium) and was recognized as a spiritual leader for her work on behalf of the community and for obtaining the Chaplain certification to provide spiritual support in cases of tragedy, which often affects the community regardless of race, color, gender, and religion. During this time, Haws Church was host to the summer vacation Bible school, support groups, and other united activities.

As coordinator of the Latino Ministries, she has been working in unity with the Pastors of urban areas to connect with the community, where they can connect with local organizations and in this way be able to supply the great needs that the Hispanic/Latino community has. Motivating them to get involved in community projects of health, education, immigration, and spiritual support, carrying the message of love, mercy, and justice of Jesus Christ.



### **NORTH DISTRICT: PASTOR MONICA GUEPET (STROUDSBURG UMC)**

Pastor Monica Guepet, serving at Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to urban ministry through her tireless efforts to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the Stroudsburg community. Under her guidance, the church has become a vital bridge between faith and community, offering transformative programs and outreach initiatives that reflect the essence of urban ministry.

Pastor Monica has overseen the growth and impact of Stroudsburg UMC's Soup Kitchen, which has faithfully operated for over 30 years and continues to serve as a beacon of hope for the local homeless and low-income populations. With an increase in participation, the Soup Kitchen now feeds 70-110 individuals weekly, supported by congregations, civic groups, youth, and church family members. This effort not only alleviates hunger but fosters partnerships with other organizations addressing food insecurity in the region.

Her leadership extends beyond physical nourishment to spiritual enrichment. Through innovative and relevant Bible Studies and Sunday School classes, Pastor Monica has created opportunities for children, youth, and adults to engage deeply with scripture and themes of justice and discipleship. Programs like Acts, Revelation, Take My Coffee Black, and Making the Road by Walking have strengthened the congregation's faith journey and equipped members to serve others.

Pastor Monica has also spearheaded community collaboration, working with organizations such as Family Promise, Street2Feet, and the Stroudsburg Business Association to address homelessness and poverty. Through these partnerships, Stroudsburg UMC has made a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable populations, demonstrating the church's commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in the city.

Pastor Monica's vision for urban ministry has revitalized Stroudsburg UMC's role in the community. The Community Resource Center Revitalization project promises to expand the church's capacity to serve, while initiatives like Vacation Bible School, open sanctuary prayer hours, and participation in downtown events create inviting spaces for connection and reflection. Additionally, innovative outreach methods such as radio advertising (547 Main Street Minute) and postcard campaigns ensure that the church remains visible and accessible to the community /it serves.

Through her faithful leadership, Pastor Monica has inspired her congregation to embody Christ's love in action, embracing opportunities to engage with the wider community and transform lives. Her dedication to urban ministry and her ability to mobilize resources, partnerships, and people exemplify the spirit of the Herbert E. Palmer Urban Ministry Award.

For these reasons, I proudly nominate Pastor Monica Guepet for this honor, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the growth of urban ministry and her unwavering commitment to serving God's people.

### **SOUTH DISTRICT: REV. STERLING EASTON (PROSPECT PARK UMC)**

Under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Sterling Eaton, Prospect Park United Methodist Church has not only survived but thrived, becoming a beacon of hope and transformation in an urban community facing significant challenges. Rev. Eaton's leadership, driven by a heart for Christ, a vision for discipleship, and a commitment to holistic ministry, has brought about profound changes that address the people's spiritual and practical needs.

Engaging the Community with Compassion Rev. Eaton understands that urban ministry is not simply

about preaching from the pulpit but also about actively engaging with the community in ways that reflect Christ's love. Through food initiatives, outreach programs, and partnerships with local organizations, Prospect Park UMC has become a pillar of support for individuals and families facing economic hardships, food insecurity, and spiritual isolation.



The Wholeness Center Farmers Market initiative, in collaboration with local non-profits and churches, has provided fresh produce and meals while cultivating a sense of unity and care within the community. This ministry has united people from diverse backgrounds, breaking down barriers and creating an environment where everyone feels they belong.

Empowering Discipleship and Spiritual Growth Rev. Eaton has fostered a culture of discipleship that extends beyond Sunday worship into congregants' daily lives. Through Bible study series such as The Well, Refuge, and Overcomer, he encourages members to deepen their faith, trust God's provision, and rely on His strength in difficult times. These teachings have strengthened the congregation spiritually and equipped them to be active witnesses in their neighborhoods and workplaces.

Furthermore, Rev. Eaton's commitment to empowering men in their faith journey has revitalized the Men's Ministry, promoting leadership, accountability, and service. His role as Director of Men's Ministry for the General Commission on United Methodist Men enables him to bring broader perspectives and resources to the local church, inspiring men to embrace their God-given calling as spiritual leaders in their homes and communities.

Urban ministry often faces unique challenges—poverty, addiction, crime, and systemic injustice. Yet, under Rev. Eaton's leadership, Prospect Park UMC has confronted these realities head-on. Instead of shying away, the church has embraced its mission to be a city on a hill, providing practical solutions through social services and advocacy while offering a deeper hope in Jesus Christ. This approach instills hope and reassurance in the community, assuring them that practical solutions and deeper hope are available.

His work with It Takes a Village to Feed One Child (ITAVTFC) and other social impact initiatives demonstrates a ministry that extends beyond the church walls, reaching people where they are and addressing their immediate and long-term needs. Rev. Eaton exemplifies what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in a world yearning for redemption and healing.

Encouraging the Future of the Ministry as Prospect Park UMC continues to grow and evolve, Rev. Eaton remains steadfast in his vision of an engaged, Spirit-led congregation that reflects Christ's love in both word and action. He showcases a commitment to lifelong learning and deepens his capacity for transformative ministry.

Through his leadership, the church navigates urban ministry challenges while thriving as a vital force for God's kingdom. Rev. Eaton's faith, perseverance, and pastoral heart inspire confidence that Prospect Park UMC's ministry will continue to flourish, drawing more souls to Christ and leaving a lasting impact on the community.

In all things, Rev. Eaton remains guided by the words of Galatians 6:9: 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' His unwavering commitment to Christ's mission ensures that the seeds planted today will yield fruit for future generations.

**WEST DISTRICT: PASTOR TIM SMITH, REV BRUNY MARTINEZ,  
JOAQUIN DEJESUS (LEBANON: COVENANT)**

Last year, a vision was born to start a new Hispanic/Latino ministry at Covenant UMC in Lebanon, PA. That vision took its first steps when Rev. Bruny Martinez, Joaquin DeJesus, and Pastor Tim Smith gathered for an initial conversation in August 2024. What began as a seed of possibility quickly blossomed as they engaged with Covenant’s leadership, planting the roots of what would become “Transformando Vidas” (Transforming Lives).



By October, Joaquin DeJesus had assembled a dedicated core group who wasted no time in reaching out to the community. They connected with neighbors during Covenant’s Yard Sale and began walking the streets surrounding the church, building relationships one conversation at a time.

December marked a significant milestone with the official launch of a Bible study that immediately drew 12-15 participants. That same month, in a beautiful demonstration of unity, the existing congregation and Transformando Vidas worked together to offer a children’s advent program, serving families throughout the neighborhood. Their Thanksgiving meal and other community events further strengthened these bonds, receiving an enthusiastic response from local residents.

The ministry reached another pivotal moment on January 12th when formal worship services began. These services now consistently welcome 16 or more attendees each week, creating a vibrant new ministry of Covenant.

Looking ahead, Transformando Vidas shows no signs of slowing down. Summer plans include Vacation Bible School and a partnership with Gretna Glen to bring a day camp directly to the church for neighborhood children.

Covenant UMC, through their vision, dedication, and remarkable impact in such a short time, is truly transforming lives through their Transformando Vidas ministry.

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**ONE MATTERS AWARD**

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**REV. CHRIS EDEN, LANCASTER: OTTERBEIN**

In the heart of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Otterbein United Methodist Church made the decision to open its doors and hearts to their community. In 2024, Otterbein UMC partnered with LCHRA (Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority) to house a low-barrier shelter within their church walls. After a year of thoughtful discernment, relationship building, charge conferences, and facility preparation, the shelter opened its doors on December 29, 2024, now providing shelter for up to 80 individuals, with the capacity to serve 105.

“This shelter has given our congregation a new missional focus and connected us with partners in the community that we were not connected with before,” shares Rev. Chris Eden, the church’s pastor. This renewal of congregation life is evident in how members now engage in “hands-on, face-to-face relationships with shelter volunteers and unhoused individuals”—transforming the congregation through service.

Though in its “early days,” Otterbein is following the Holy Spirit towards even greater impact. Now, when Lancaster County declares “Cold Blue” emergency conditions, the people of the church now open the church as a warming station before the shelter’s regular hours. And the church is carrying this renewed sense of mission into the future – currently discerning its role as a “generosity multiplier” for the community, channeling donations from everyday necessities to financial contributions, and has plans to expand partnerships addressing food insecurity among shelter guests.



This work of transformation began under Rev. Jonette Gay’s leadership in early 2024 and continues seamlessly under Rev. Eden—a powerful demonstration of the connectional and missional nature of our church.

Otterbein United Methodist Church stands as a beacon of renewal in Lancaster County—demonstrating how answering the call to serve can transform not only the lives of those in need but also revitalize a congregation’s sense of purpose and community connection.

# LEGISLATION

01 **RESOLUTION #2025-01: TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION**

02  
03  
04 **Supporting the Establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools as part**  
05 **of our Continuing the Journey Toward Healing and Wholeness with Indigenous Peoples established by**  
06 **the Act of Repentance.**

07  
08 **Presented by the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference (EPA) Committee on Native American**  
09 **Ministries (CoNAM); written by Verna Colliver (EPA), Sandi Cianciulli (EPA), Suzanne Wenonah**  
10 **Duchesne (EPA), and Kevin Witt, Susquehanna Annual Conference (SUS).**

11  
12 **Presenter: Verna Colliver with members of EPA CoNAM**

13  
14 **WHEREAS,** in 1992 The General Conference called for an Act of Repentance that “truly honors what  
15 Indigenous [Peoples] feel about how they have been wronged and where restitution and forgiveness  
16 might come from and what it will look like and entail,” and more recently in 2012 held an Act of  
17 Repentance Service at General Conference challenging every Annual Conference and local congregation  
18 to implement actions demonstrating a genuine attitude of repentance (Resolution 3321, Book of  
19 Resolutions p. 326) and that The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference responded to that challenge  
20 with an Act of Repentance and Healing Relationships with Indigenous Persons in 2016; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS,** many Native Americans in The United Methodist Church supported this action with  
23 confidence and expectation that these Acts of Repentance would amount to more than a moment of  
24 remembrance and recognition of wrongs done; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS,** The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference has demonstrated a commitment to continue  
27 the process of healing with a list of action steps, including a vow to “Support General Church initiatives  
28 related to land and treaty rights, support for tribal sovereignty and cultural preservation; better health  
29 care and education for Native people and the safety of Native and Indigenous women.” (Opening  
30 Worship including an Act of Repentance & Holy Communion, 2016); and

31  
32 **WHEREAS,** The General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church presented  
33 the findings of a report from a multiyear, multiphase initiative between The United Methodist Board of  
34 Global Ministries, United Women in Faith, and The General Commission on Archives and History detailing  
35 The United Methodist Church’s involvement with Indigenous Boarding Schools. This research includes a  
36 list of known schools with Methodist ties and details how various religious organizations were involved  
37 with funding, staffing, or both. It also presents further research plans, including global investigations,  
38 research and dissertation funding;<sup>1</sup> and

39  
40 **WHEREAS,** Pennsylvania has a particularly important historic role in establishing the first and most  
41 consequential Federal Indian Boarding School in the country, which became the model for all other  
42 Federal Indian Boarding Schools thereafter. Furthermore, the school “was deeply enmeshed with  
43 local governments and their services”<sup>2</sup> and benefited through child labor provided by the students for  
44 rebuilding following the Civil War;<sup>3</sup>and

45  
46 **WHEREAS,** attempts to destroy Native communities, cultures, religions, and languages through  
47 assimilationist practices and policies can be traced to the early 17th century and the founding charters of  
48 some of the oldest educational institutions in the United States; and

49  
50 **WHEREAS,** the Federal Indian Boarding School Policy was expressly intended to accomplish cultural  
51 genocide<sup>4</sup>—the systematic destruction of Indigenous identities and beliefs, and taking of Native lands;  
52 and

53  
54 **WHEREAS,** between 1819 and the 1960s, hundreds of thousands of American Indian, Alaska Native, and

01 Native Hawaiian children were forcibly removed from, deceived, or coerced into leaving their homes and  
02 families and placed in Indian Boarding Schools operated by the Federal Government and churches; and  
03

04 **WHEREAS**, parents of the children were highly discouraged from visiting or engaging in correspondence  
05 with their children, and many of the children who were taken to Indian Boarding Schools did not survive,  
06 and of those who did survive, many never returned to their parents, extended families, or communities;  
07 and

08

09 **WHEREAS**, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities continue to experience  
10 intergenerational trauma, cultural and familial disruption from experiences rooted in Indian Boarding  
11 School Policies, which divided family structures, damaged cultures and individual identities, and inflicted  
12 chronic physical and psychological ramifications on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian  
13 children, families, and communities; and

14

15 **WHEREAS**, the descendants of these children, spanning multiple generations, bear the legacy of Indian  
16 Boarding Schools and the enduring Federal Policy that established and perpetuated them, wherein the  
17 trauma they endured remains mainly unacknowledged and unresolved to this day; and

18

19 **WHEREAS**, our country is evolving in our understanding of the troubling history of United States Indian  
20 Boarding School Policy as acknowledged by the first formal Presidential apology in American history,<sup>5</sup>  
21 and the establishment of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School as a national monument with the National  
22 Park Service Proclamation;<sup>6</sup> and

23

24 **WHEREAS**, Truth and Healing Commissions in other countries have achieved positive outcomes that have  
25 led to reforming child and family services; the reclamation, revitalization, maintaining, and strengthening  
26 of Indigenous languages; examining health outcomes, determinants, and physical and mental health care  
27 inequities experienced by Indigenous Peoples;<sup>7</sup> and

28

29 **WHEREAS**, the resulting concrete initiatives in Indigenous communities to restore lost cultural  
30 foundations, such as the restoration of language<sup>8</sup> and buffalo herds,<sup>9</sup> have proven to be beneficial and  
31 are having a positive impact on the health and well-being of Native communities; and

32

33 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in  
34 the United States, which has been fully funded through existing budget allocations, provides sources  
35 of healing for survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, the descendants of those survivors, and the  
36 communities of those survivors. Formally investigating, documenting, and reporting on the histories of  
37 Indian Boarding Schools, Indian Boarding School Policies, and the systematic and long-term effects on  
38 Native American Peoples will lead to recommendations for Federal action based on the findings of the  
39 Commission;<sup>10</sup>and

40

41 **WHEREAS**, though the United States Government has failed to act in the past when Indian Boarding  
42 School atrocities came to light, hope emerged when the recent Senate Bill 1723 passed in 2024.  
43 Unfortunately, the House of Representatives failed to address the bill, which is presently “Held at  
44 Desk,” meaning it can be brought to the floor again, but timing is of the essence, and action is vitally  
45 important.<sup>11</sup>

46

47 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we strongly encourage the Bishop and the Cabinet, and call on  
48 committees, church members, and individuals who attend churches in The Eastern Pennsylvania  
49 Conference of The United Methodist Church to ask their legislators to support the establishment of the  
50 “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools Policies in the United States Act”; and

51

52 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that churches in The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist  
53 Church plan a National Day of Remembrance Worship Service for United States Indian Boarding  
54 Schools.<sup>12</sup>



01

02 **Rationale:**

03 This resolution was created through a collaborative effort between the EPA and SUS Conference  
04 CoNAMs. Supporting the Establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding  
05 Schools is directly in alignment with our Continuing the Journey Toward Healing and Wholeness with  
06 Indigenous Peoples established by the Act of Repentance that was held in The EPA Conference of The  
07 United Methodist Church in 2016. It is in alignment with research projects already undertaken by  
08 The United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Board of  
09 Global Ministries, and United Women in Faith. In addition, the establishment of the Commission has  
10 widespread support among many organizations, including faith groups such as Friends Committee on  
11 National Legislation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and The Episcopal Church; Indigenous  
12 organizations such as National Congress of American Indians, and Native Organizers Alliance; and other  
13 national organizations such as the National Education Association.

14

15 Furthermore, as a church that occupies lands within the Pennsylvania borders, this is an important  
16 recognition of our ongoing repentance because of Pennsylvania's historic role in establishing the  
17 country's first and most consequential Federal Indian Boarding School, which became the model for all  
18 other Federal Indian Boarding Schools thereafter.

19

20 Supporting the establishment of the Commission will provide the means to begin the process of  
21 forming necessary advisory committees and subcommittees that will reveal sources of healing that  
22 are crucial for the health and welfare of our Indigenous siblings. This process will include formally  
23 investigating, documenting, and reporting on the histories of Indian Boarding Schools, on Indian  
24 Boarding School Policies, and on the long-term effects on Native American peoples, as well as developing  
25 recommendations for Federal action based on the findings of the Commission. All of these efforts have  
26 proven themselves efficacious and have led to positive outcomes when implemented in other countries,  
27 and the funds have already been allocated for this purpose.

28

29 It is heartening that the establishment of the Commission has seen some legislative support through  
30 Senate Bill 1723, which passed in 2024. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives failed to address  
31 the bill, and it is presently "Held at Desk," meaning it can be brought to the floor again or reintroduced.  
32 Through the actions of this resolution, our voices can bring pressure to either bring it off the desk for  
33 consideration or reintroduce the bill as appropriate. In addition, the ongoing support of the Commission,  
34 when established, will be necessary to ensure research is conducted ethically, reported fully, and acted  
35 upon for furthering the healing of the Nations.

36

37

38 (Endnotes)

39 1 the report can be found here: [https://www.umc.org/-/media/umc-media/2024/09/12/16/27/  
40 Indigenous-Boarding-School-Report-2024-final.pdf](https://www.umc.org/-/media/umc-media/2024/09/12/16/27/Indigenous-Boarding-School-Report-2024-final.pdf)

41

42 2 "I am pleased to join the Court's opinion in full. I write separately to add some historical  
43 context. To appreciate fully the significance of today's decision requires an understanding of the long line  
44 of policies that drove Congress to adopt ICWA." Neil McGill Gorsuch, Associate Justice of the Supreme  
45 Court of the United States, concurring opinion in support of the Opinion of the Supreme Court affirming  
46 the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), *Haaland v. Brackeen*, 2-ff. [https://www.  
47 supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/21-376\\_7148.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/21-376_7148.pdf)

48

49 3 [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/12/09/a-proclamation-  
50 on-the-establishment-of-the-carlisle-federal-indian-boarding-school-national-monument/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/12/09/a-proclamation-on-the-establishment-of-the-carlisle-federal-indian-boarding-school-national-monument/)

51

52 4 R. H. Pratt wrote in *On the Education of Native Americans*, "Kill the Indian in him, and save the  
53 man" [https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/teach/kill-indian-him-and-save-man-r-h-pratt-education-  
54 native-americans](https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/teach/kill-indian-him-and-save-man-r-h-pratt-education-native-americans)

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5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChTKjeEgZt8>

6 [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/12/09/a-proclamation-on-the-establishment-of-the-carlisle-federal-indian-boarding-school-national-monument/?utm\\_source=link](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/12/09/a-proclamation-on-the-establishment-of-the-carlisle-federal-indian-boarding-school-national-monument/?utm_source=link)

7 see the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525>

8 see some examples: Yuchi Language Project, <https://www.yuchilanguage.org/> and TedX-Saving the Lakota Language through Immersion Education, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD5GPBRsJcQ>

9 see PBS Homecoming-Buffalo Return to Indigenous lands [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_N5mc7Lbp0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_N5mc7Lbp0)

10 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1723/text>

11 <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1723/text>

12 for more information, see The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) website. The Conference CONAM has resources for churches <https://www.epaumc.org/news/remembering-native-american-victims-of-us-schools/>, <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/>, <https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/church-and-society-2024-fall-board-meeting-highlights-2914>

26 Word file reviewed and refined per recommendation of the Implicit Bias Review Team, February 11, 2025.

01 **RESOLUTION #2025-02: LGBTQIA+ INCLUSION**

02  
03  
04  
05 A resolution submitted to the 2025 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

06  
07 Whereas the 2020/2024 General Conference of The United Methodist Church removed Book of  
08 Discipline policies targeting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQIA+)

09 community and mandating discrimination throughout the denomination, and

10  
11 Whereas dismantling discrimination and harm cannot be realized through legislation alone, but  
12 requires ongoing engagement in the context of relationship, including but not limited to: policy  
13 change, story-sharing and dialogue, education, support, leadership development, solidarity,  
14 advocacy, monitoring, accountability, and

15  
16 Whereas the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference seeks to be proactive in building  
17 relationships, learning, and living into all that is now possible for ministry with and for LGBTQIA+  
18 persons,

19  
20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Eastern PA Conference shall form a conference-level LGBTQIA+ Inclusion  
21 Team and encourage the Bishop to name the members of that team for the purpose of:

- 22 1. Actively supporting the LGBTQIA+ laity, clergy, and candidates for licensed/ordained  
23 ministry in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference with community-building, faith  
24 and leadership development, solidarity, and advocacy.
- 25 2. Centering and amplifying the voices and experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community,  
26 especially those who have been marginalized by church and society, most notably,  
27 transgender and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) persons.
- 28 3. Monitoring Annual Conference committees and policies, as well as the status and needs  
29 of candidates and clergy under appointment to ensure justice and equity on the basis of  
30 sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, and to report findings to the Annual  
31 Conference.
- 32 4. Curating, creating, and sharing resources to equip local churches for:  
33 a. relationship building and continuing education  
34 b. meaningful ministry with and for LGBTQIA+ church and community members
- 35 5. Collaborating with ministry-specific areas, particularly children's ministry, youth ministry,  
36 and campus ministry in the desire to safely and most effectively be in ministry with and  
37 for LGBTQIA+ people of all ages.

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team, to be named by the bishop, be  
40 established within 4 months of annual conference adjournment, hold its first meeting in 2025, and include:

- 41 1. LGBTQIA+ persons that make up at least 1/3 of the total membership
- 42 2. Intentional diversity of age  
43 a. At least 2 members under the age of 25  
44 b. 1/3 membership under 35  
45 c. 1/3 membership 36 to 55  
46 d. 1/3 membership 56 and up
- 47 3. Intentional diversity throughout all genders
- 48 4. Intentional diversity throughout all races and ethnicities
- 49 5. Lay and clergy representatives from each district
- 50 6. Members with established leadership in the area of LGBTQIA+ justice and inclusion

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Be it further resolved that the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team shall be fully included in all future annual conference processes related to ensuring an appropriate budget, representation on other committees, reporting to the annual conference, and ongoing membership based on the above criteria.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Rev. Joanne Miles and Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck on behalf of the  
Reconciling United Methodists of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

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Presenters: Rev. Herb Snyder and Rev. Mandy Miller

Rationale:

This resolution calls for the creation of a conference-level LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Team to ensure ongoing support, advocacy, and equitable representation for LGBTQ+ persons in the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. The decision to form this team stems from the removal of discriminatory policies at the 2020/2024 General Conference, but recognizes that the work of dismantling harm and fostering inclusion goes beyond policy changes. The team's role will be to actively engage with the LGBTQIA+ community, provide necessary resources, and hold the conference accountable to its commitments to justice and equity. By centering the voices of LGBTQIA+ individuals and fostering relationships through education, leadership development, and ministry collaboration, this resolution affirms the United Methodist Church's commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

01 **RESOLUTION #2025-03: ARENA CHARGE CONFERENCE FORM SUBMISSIONS**

02  
03  
04 **RESOLUTION TO THE 2025 EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

05 **Relating to Arena Charge Conference Form Submissions**  
06 **Presented by Fairless Hills: Christ UMC and Rev. Lloyd Speer**

07  
08 **WHEREAS**, ¶247.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church allows  
09 alternative models of governance to be created for local congregations to spend more time in mission  
10 and ministry activities rather than in administrative meetings; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS** the Simplified Accountable Structure (also known as the One Board Model) fulfills  
13 the provisions of ¶ 243 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church for  
14 administrative oversight of a local congregation; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Simplified Accountable Structure (also known as the One Board Model) is utilized as an  
17 alternative model of governance throughout the annual conferences of the denomination in churches  
18 large and small, and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, numerous congregations in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference have adopted this alternate  
21 model of governance, and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, Arena does not easily allow the submission of Charge Conference form information from  
24 churches with alternate models of governance in keeping with ¶247.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of  
25 Discipline, particularly the Simplified Accountable Structure (also known as the One Board Model), and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, repeatedly entering the same information into the online forms for Church Council, Finance  
28 Committee, Trustees, and the Staff-Parish Committee takes time away from mission and ministry  
29 activities,

30  
31 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Arena system be updated to allow Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and  
32 Greater New Jersey Conference congregations that have chosen to adopt an alternate model of  
33 governance in keeping with ¶247.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline (such as the Simplified  
34 Accountable Structure, also known as the One Board Model) to more easily file Charge Conference  
35 reports without having to repeatedly enter the same information over and over again, and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the updating of the Arena system to allow Eastern Pennsylvania  
38 Conference and Greater New Jersey Conference congregations that have chosen to adopt an alternate  
39 model of governance in keeping with ¶247.2 of the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline (such as the  
40 Simplified Accountable Structure, also known as the One Board Model) to more easily file Charge  
41 Conference reports without having to repeatedly enter the same information over and over again be  
42 done in consultation with EPA and GNJ congregations that have chosen to adopt an alternate model of  
43 governance in keeping with ¶247.2., and

44  
45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that since the 2020/2024 Book of Discipline in ¶244.3 continues to state  
46 that “the pastor shall be the administrative officer and, as such, shall be an ex officio member of all  
47 conferences, boards, councils, commissions, committees, and task forces, unless otherwise restricted  
48 by the Discipline,” the pastors of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Greater New Jersey Conference  
49 congregations shall be granted access and submission authority in Arena for all required charge  
50 conference forms.

51  
52 **Resolution Rationale**

53 Both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Greater New Jersey Conference have been  
54 promoting the Simplified Accountable Structure (also known as the One Board Model) as an appropriate

01 alternate administrative structure that allows congregations to be involved in mission and ministry  
02 activities rather than spending excessive amounts of time in committee meetings. This is especially  
03 the case when a decision that needs to be made must wind its way through the Board of Trustees, the  
04 Finance Committee, and finally the Church Council. For small membership churches this is especially  
05 burdensome since it is often some of the same people in all three of those meetings.

06

07 For that reason, numerous congregations in both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Greater  
08 New Jersey Conference have followed the advice of conference leadership, and the guidelines of ¶247.2  
09 in the Book of Discipline to approve an alternate administrative structure, with many choosing to adopt  
10 the Simplified Accountable Structure (also known as the One Board Model).

11

12 However, when the Arena system was introduced, there was no option for churches to submit the  
13 needed Charge Conference forms and information in a way that fit their new administrative structure.  
14 Reports still needed to be done in the general format of Finance Committee, Trustees, etc., with the  
15 person submitting them titled by that committee even though those committees and chairpersons  
16 were no longer a part of the church's administrative structure. That alone created more administrative  
17 work and stress (rather than less) to submit all the required reports. Additionally, the names and email  
18 addresses of the leadership teams in the churches that had elected to adopt the SAS (or One Board  
19 Model) administrative structure had to be manually retyped in numerous places.

20

21 We are therefore asking that at least this issue be addressed as a starting point. We are also asking  
22 that the persons doing the updating of Arena to address the needs of churches that have moved to an  
23 alternate administrative structure do that work in consultation with at least a representative group of  
24 those churches to ensure what is done actually meets the needs that have been raised.

25

26 In addition, many of the churches that have moved to a new administrative model have done so because  
27 they are smaller, and/or do not have enough persons with the technical abilities to download and submit  
28 information from and through the Arena system. They therefore often rely on their pastor to provide  
29 that ability. In addition, as the primary administrative officers pastors traditionally have been told that  
30 they are responsible for the timely and complete submission of all the charge conference reports. So  
31 denying the ability for pastors the ability to do that job is an act of injustice toward both the local church  
32 and the pastor appointed/assigned to them.

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01 **RESOLUTION #2025-04: FEDERATED CLOSURE LEGISLATION**

02  
03  
04 **WHEREAS**, in January, 1977 the United Methodist Church of Ashland of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual  
05 Conference covenanted with the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, to create a federated church  
06 named The First United Methodist-Presbyterian Church of Ashland, in accordance with Par. 209 of the  
07 2016 Book of *Discipline*; and

08  
09 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference (EPAC) razed the United Methodist  
10 Church of Ashland’s building, and the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland continued to own the real  
11 property, which was used as the place of worship and ministry for the federated church; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the federated church congregation is no longer operating as a United Methodist  
14 congregation; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and the Cabinet agree to dissolve the federated church  
17 covenant agreement; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, EPAC acknowledges that the real property remains under the ownership of the First  
20 Presbyterian Church of Ashland and affirms that it holds no legal or financial interest in the property;

21  
22 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that:

23  
24 1) EPAC formally acknowledges the dissolution of the covenant agreement with The First United  
25 Methodist-Presbyterian Church of Ashland; and

26  
27 2) EPAC celebrates the 47-year ministry and mission partnership it shared with The First United  
28 Methodist-Presbyterian Church of Ashland.

29  
30 **Submitted by The Eastern Pennsylvania Cabinet**

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# RESOLUTION #2025-05: CHURCH CLOSURES

01 **Be it resolved** that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference expresses its thanksgiving for all the  
02 blessings made possible by the clergy and laity who have contributed to the ministry and mission of  
03 the following congregations. In the closing of these churches, these congregations give a living legacy of  
04 support to the United Methodist mission. We are grateful for the ministry of these congregations:  
05

06 **East District**

07 Solebury United Methodist Church – Solebury UMC has experienced a steady decline in membership  
08 due to demographic shifts and the passing of longtime members. This decline has resulted in  
09 significant challenges in the mission, making it difficult for the church to sustain operations. A special  
10 church conference was held on March 12, 2025, in which the church voted in favor of closure.  
11

12 **North District**

13 Jim Thorpe: Grace-St. Paul UMC - On June 30, 2024, the pastor and entire congregation of Grace-  
14 St. Paul UMC walked away from the church, leading to its closure under exigent circumstances.  
15 Subsequently, the District Superintendent, the chair of the Church Location and Building Committee,  
16 and one remaining member of Grace-St. Paul UMC formed the Board of Trustees and formally  
17 approved the closure on October 17, 2024.  
18

19 Leighton: Ebenezer UMC - Ebenezer UMC has experienced a steady decline in membership due to  
20 demographic shifts and the passing of longtime members. This decline has resulted in significant  
21 financial challenges, making it difficult for the church to sustain operations. The Church Location and  
22 Building Committee approved the closure on August 15, 2024, and the Charge Conference voted in  
23 favor of closure on October 18, 2024.  
24

25 Reynolds: Zion's UMC - Zion's UMC has been experiencing an average attendance of only five people  
26 per week, making it unsustainable to continue holding services. As a result, the congregation has  
27 formally requested the church's closure. The Church Location and Building Committee approved the  
28 request on January 16, 2025, and the Charge Conference affirmed the closure on January 24, 2025.  
29

30 **Be it further resolved**, in keeping with the provisions of Paragraph 2549.2b of the Book of Discipline,  
31 2020/2024 edition, that the congregations are discontinued, and the assets of the church are transferred  
32 to the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.  
33

34 **Be it further resolved**, that in keeping with the provisions of Paragraph 229 of the Book of the Discipline,  
35 2020/2024 edition, the remaining members of the church may be transferred to a United Methodist  
36 Church of their choice.  
37

38 **Be it further resolved**, that through its budget fund distribution percentages for the sale of property,  
39 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference distributes net proceeds after all outstanding loans and other  
40 obligations owed to Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference or any other creditor shall be repaid upon  
41 the sale of the property, and liquidation of any other assets. In cases in which the local church is closed  
42 in an urban area with more than 50,000 in population, paragraph 2549.8 of the Book of Discipline,  
43 2020/2024 edition, will govern the proceeds of the sale.  
44

45 **Be it further resolved**, in keeping with provisions of Paragraph 2549.4 of the Book of Discipline,  
46 2020/2024 edition, that all deeds, records, legal papers and other official documents shall be maintained  
47 in permanent safekeeping with the Conference Commission on Archives and History of the St. George's  
48 United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA,  
49

50 **Be it further resolved** that the congregations voted and or agreed to close and discontinue as a church in  
51 the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church having served with dedication and  
52 commitment to the mission of the United Methodist Church.  
53

54 **Submitted by The Eastern Pennsylvania Cabinet**



# RESOLUTION #2025-06: NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP REPORT

## 2025 CONFERENCE AGENCIES WITH MEMBERSHIP

*Report from the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership of the EPA Annual Conference*

*Each of these agencies will have a designation as to how members are nominated prior to being elected by the Annual Conference. This slate includes those groups that must be elected by the Annual Conference, which is the responsibility of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership as well as all agencies whose membership must be approved by the Annual Conference whether they are nominated by the Bishop or their own membership. All new nominees or people in transition will be presented in bold print.*

*Quadrennium of Service: (First), (Second), (Interim)*

*This is the EPA method of tracking service and rotating leaders and members unless specifically noted. (Interim Service: This designation is for anyone who fills a vacancy or enters during a quadrennium. If one enters into the first or second year of the quadrennium that quadrennium is considered their first. If one enters into the third or fourth year of the quadrennium it is not considered their first as their first would start at the beginning of the next quadrennium.*

*Next Quadrennium begins July 1, 2028.*

*Years of Service:*

*Some of the agencies are in the Book of Discipline and are tracked with years of service. For those groups, years of service is the method of tracking service and rotating leaders and members.*

*Agency Member Designation: (C) Clergy, (LW) Laywoman, (LM) Layman, (NC) Non-Conference In addition as per **A Path Towards Wholeness Legislation (R. 2022-07)**, inclusivity in terms of self-identified racial, ethnic, disability, and age are tracked internally by each group.*

*For each agency, its purpose, membership requirements, nomination process, and the times they currently have meetings are included.*

*If you have any questions or concerns with any of the agencies listed or their members, please contact the **Co-Chairpersons of the Conference Committee on Nominations and Leadership:***

*The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) Email: [pastorpiltz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpiltz@gmail.com)  
Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) Email: [maqteaches424@gmail.com](mailto:maqteaches424@gmail.com)*

**Chief Financial Officer /Conference Treasurer**  
**Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW) Email: [nausley@epaqni.org](mailto:nausley@epaqni.org)**

**Conference Statistician**  
**Mr. Paul Bernhardt (E) (LM); Email: [paul.bernhardt@villanova.edu](mailto:paul.bernhardt@villanova.edu)**

**Conference Secretary**  
**Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim (N) (C); Email: [epaconferencesecretary@epaqni.org](mailto:epaconferencesecretary@epaqni.org)**

**Chancellor**

01 **Administrative Review Committee ¶635**

02 *PURPOSE: Reviews any decisions made by the Bishop at their direction when needed.*

03 *MEMBERSHIP: BOD Quadrennium Service. 5 people. Three clergy in full connection and two alternates who*  
04 *are not members of the Cabinet or the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOOM) or immediate family members*  
05 *of the above; nominated by the Bishop and elected quadrennially at the clergy session by the clergy in full*  
06 *connection.*

07 **Appointed By: The Bishop**

08 **MEETINGS: Only as needed**

09 **Chairperson**

10 **The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien (S) (C)**

11 **Alternatives**

12 **The Rev. Robert Wilt, Jr. (S) (C)**

**The Rev. Herbert Coe (S) (C)**

13 **Members**

14 **The Rev. Stacy Gonzalez (S) (C)**

**The Rev. Mercedes Case (S) (C)**

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18 **Archives and History, Commission on ¶641**

19 *PURPOSE: Documents and celebrates historical records and events.*

20 *MEMBERSHIP: Up to 12 persons. Ex-Officio: 1 representative from each of the Heritage Landmarks*  
21 *located within the boundaries of the Annual Conference [Appenzeller Shrine (First UMC, Lancaster),*  
22 *Albright Chapel (Trinity UMC, Kleinfeltersville), Boehm’s Chapel, Historic St. George’s, Mother African Zoar,*  
23 *Simpson House].*

24 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

25 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

26 **MEETINGS: On Zoom as needed. First Mondays of February, May, August and November**

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29 **Chairperson**

30 **The Rev. R. Mark Young (S) (C) (Second) Email: [alvkrinst@aol.com](mailto:alvkrinst@aol.com)**

31 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

32 **The Rev. Jason David Rios Ramos (W) (C) (Appenzeller)**

**Albright Chapel Representative**

33 **Dr. Ernest Moody (E) (LM) (Mother African Zoar)**

**Simpson House Representative**

34 **The Rev. Bill Wilson (E) (C) (Historic St. George’s)**

35 **The Rev. Manuel Cruz (W) (OE) (Boehm’s Chapel)**

36 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

37 **Mr. William H. White (S) (LM)**

**The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (C)**

38 **Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)**

39 **Members**

40 **The Rev. David William Brown (E) (C) (Second)**

41 **Ms. Vicki Brown (Tindley Temple) (E) (LW) (First)**

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44 **Benefits, Board of ¶638**

45 *PURPOSE; Oversees management of clergy pension and health care benefits.*

46 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 persons. Each member serves a term of 8 years. Four classes of 3 persons.*

47 *CFO/Conference Treasurer, Executive Director of Board of Benefits*

48 *RESOURCE: One member of the CCFA.*

49 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

50 **MEETINGS: 4th Thursday in February, with a set snow date of the 1st Thursday in March, 4th Thursday in**  
51 **July by ZOOM, and 4th Thursday in October, all 6:00 p.m. at the Conference Office.**

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**President**

**Mr. Alvin Kingcade (S) (LM) Email: [alvin.kingcade@comcast.net](mailto:alvin.kingcade@comcast.net)**

**Vice President**

*To be elected by Committee*

**Executive Director**

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW)**

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew L Foster, III (E) (C)*

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

*CCFA Representative*

**Members**

*The Rev. Derrick Gutiérrez (W) (C)*

*Ms. Cressa Morris (S) (LW)*

*The Rev. John Laughlin (W) (C)*

*Mr. Greg Westerbeck (E) (LM)*

*Mr. Ernest D. Giahyue (S) (LM)*

***The Rev. Janice Bowers (S) (C)***

**Bradley Fund Trustee**

*PURPOSE: Oversee the management of the Bradley Fund on behalf of the Annual Conference. The Bradley Fund was founded in 1983 from a Bequest, as a restricted fund, for the maintenance of Cornwall Manor or other EPA Conference retirement homes so long as they continue to provide retirement housing for retired ministers, their spouses and widow/widowers of EPA UMC. The Board oversees the disbursement of funds.*

*MEMBERSHIP: 5 people. Bishop; one clergy and one layperson elected by the Annual Conference (one of these shall be the CFO/Conference Treasurer); 1 clergy person and 1 layperson appointed by the Board of Benefits.*

***Nominated By: Two members by Board of Benefits, one member by Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership,***

*MEETINGS: As determined by the committee.*

**President**

**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop (C)**

**Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW)**

**Members**

*The Rev. Christina Jean Keller (E) (C) (Second)*

*Mr. Al Kingcade (S) (LM) (First)*

**Camp and Retreat Ministry Board**

*PURPOSE: Oversees operations; creates and implements a vision for all 4 of our Conference camps*

*MEMBERSHIP: 16 persons; 1/4 of whom shall be persons of diverse racial/ethnic background. Four classes of 4 persons serving a 4-year term. Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries, CFO/Conference Treasurer, and 1 representative from the Conference Board of Trustees.*

*RESOURCE: Directors of all 4 sites in the Annual Conference*

***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

***MEETINGS: Hybrid. Odd months - September thru May on the third Sunday of the month.***

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Chairperson

The Rev. Jared Stoltzfus (W) (C) Email: [pastorjstoltzfus@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjstoltzfus@gmail.com)

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW)**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

Ms. Janelle Mungro (E) (LW)

The Rev. Hun Ju Lee (N) (C)

Board of Trustees Representative

Camp and Retreat Directors

Members

The Rev. Michael Callahan (S) (C)

Mr. Pete McIlwee (S) (LM)

Mr. Joe Snyder (N) (LM)

Ms. Christine Strange (E) (LW)

Mr. Matt Klein (W) (LM)

Ms. Susan Wendel - Vattima (W) (LW)

Ms. Kelly Nelson (E) (LW)

Mrs. Irene Dickinson (E) (LW)

Ms. Christina Murphy(N) (LW)

Mr. Bob Mease (W) (LM)

Mr. Eric Chelton (E) (LM)

Ms. Hosea Latshaw (W) (LW)

Ms. Jaime Graham (N) (LW)

**The Rev. Truman Brooks (S) (C)**

**EPA Communications Committee ¶1646**

*PURPOSE: Provides leadership in the implementation of a strategic communications ministry; promotes and interprets the connectional life of the conference and support of conference-wide ministries*

*MEMBERSHIP: Director of Communications; Editorial Manager, regional administrators, members with expertise in newsgathering, digital media, photography, public relations, radio/TV, website, and technology use in ministry.*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

**MEETINGS: Quarterly**

Chairperson

**Sue Kiefner (E) (LW) (Second) Email: [suekiefner@gmail.com](mailto:suekiefner@gmail.com)**

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

**Director of Communications (EPA&GNJ)**

**Regional Administrators**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

Members

The Rev. Robert Stippich (W) (C) (Second)

The Rev. Julia Lynne Singleton (E) (C) (Second)

The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)

**Mrs. Sabrina Leanne Daluisio (S) (LW) (First)**

Ms. Krystl Gauld (S) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Jared Stoltzfus (W) (C) (Second)

Mrs. Neena Deibler (S) (LW) (Second)

**Conference Sessions, Commission on**

*PURPOSE: Plans, implements, and evaluates all aspects of the Annual Conference session and adjourned sessions when needed.*

*MEMBERSHIP: Up to 17 persons. One representative from each district; one representative of the Board of Laity. Six persons for expertise and/or balance. One representative from the Disabilities Committee.*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, Chairperson(s) of Board of Ordained Ministry, Dean of the Cabinet, Conference Secretary, CFO/Conference Treasurer, the Bishop*

**Appointed By: the Bishop**

**MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times a year**

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Chairperson

The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C) (Second) Email: [jdanderman@gmail.com](mailto:jdanderman@gmail.com)

Conference Secretary

Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim (N) (C)

Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW), Chief Financial Officer** The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C) DCM

Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM), Lay Leader The Rev. Andrew L. Foster III, Dean of the Cabinet

Revs. Tracy Duncan & Dorry Newcomer, BOOM Chairpersons

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)** Director of Communications

Ms. Nicola Mulligan, Assistant to the Bishop **Executive Administrative Assistant**

**Ms. Diana Picurro, EPA&GNJ Staff**

Members

Mrs. Rosalind McKelvey (E) (LW) (Second) The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)

Ms. Ethel Malone (E) (LW) (First) The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)

The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second) Mrs. Judy Ehninger (N) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Monica Guepet (N) (C) (Second) The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (N) (C) (Second)

**The Rev. Candy LaBar (N) (C) (First)**

Rules Committee

(sub-committee of Conference Sessions)

Chairperson

The Rev. Lloyd Speer (E) (C) (First) Email: [lfispeer3@comcast.net](mailto:lfispeer3@comcast.net)

Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C) (First)

Members

The Rev. Johnson Dodla (S) (C) (First) The Rev. Gary Nicholson (S) (C) (First)

The Rev. Lisa DePaz (E) (C) (First) Ms. Pat Wilson, (N) (LW) (First)

Mr. Mert Shane (N) LM) (First) Mrs. Clarita Krall (E) (LW) (First)

Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership

PURPOSE: Creates a slate of nominees for Conference boards, councils, commissions, and committees

MEMBERSHIP: Up to 25 persons. One clergy and one layperson from each district; 5 members of diverse

racial/ethnic background and gender inclusiveness; One representative from the Disabilities Committee;

Conference Lay Leader, UMW representative, UMM representative, Youth representative.

RESOURCE: Representatives from CORR and COSROW. Ex-Officio: Director of Connectional Ministries, and 1

District Superintendent named by the Bishop

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

MEETINGS: 4 to 6 meetings at the Conference Office as needed

Chairperson

Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second) Email: [pastorpiltz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpiltz@gmail.com)

Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [maateaches424@gmail.com](mailto:maateaches424@gmail.com)

01 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)  
 02 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C) Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)  
 03 **The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, (C) Associate Superintendent District Superintendent Representative**  
 04 **for Leadership Development Communications Representative**  
 05 **CORR Representative COSROW Representative**  
 06 **Board of Elders Representative**  
 07 **Board of Deacons, Deaconesses and Home Missionaries Representative**

08 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)  
 09 **Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)**

10 Members  
 11 Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (E) (LW) (First) Mrs. Ethel L. Malone (E) (LW) (Second)  
 12 Ms. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW) (Second) The Rev. Eva Johnson (S) (C) (Second)  
 13 The Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien (S) (C) (Second) Mrs. Judy Ehninger (N) (LW) (First)  
 14 **The Rev. Wendy Bellis (N) (C) (First)**

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18 **Congregational Development Team**

19 *PURPOSE: Actively resources churches and ministries in the process of development and revitalization*

20 *MEMBERSHIP: Persons with experience in congregational development*

21 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

22 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

23 *Meetings: 6 times a year as scheduled by the chairpersons*

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26 **Co-Chairpersons**

27 **The Rev. Steve Morton (S) (C) (First), Interim Co-Chair**  
 28 **[To Be Elected by Committee] - Co-Chair**

29 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

30 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C) **The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, (NW Region) (C)**  
 31 The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C) **Assoc. Superintendent for Leadership Development**

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33 **Members:**

34 The Rev. Deanna M. Geiter (W) (C) (Second) Mr. Carl Everett (S) (C) (Second)  
 35 Mr. Brian Dablow (E) (LM) (First) The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (N) (C) (First)  
 36 Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW) (Second) The Rev. Jeff Raffauf (S) (C) (First)  
 37 **The Rev. Wendy Bellis (N) (C) (First)** **Rev. Lisa Jean Hoefner (W) (C) (First)**  
 38 **The Rev. Myra Maxwell (E) (C) (First)** **Rev. Will Brawner (E) (C) (First)**  
 39 **Ms. Luann Ingram (E) (LW) (First)**

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42 **Small Church Network Committee**

43 **(sub-committee of Congregational Development Team)**

44 *PURPOSE: to support, encourage and resource mission development and ministry in*  
 45 *town and country areas with a population of less than 50,000. These shall include*  
 46 *incorporated areas of 10,000 to 50,000; towns, villages, and incorporated areas with*  
 47 *10,000 or fewer; and rural areas with population density of 200 or fewer persons per*  
 48 *square mile.*

49 **MEMBERSHIP: Congregational Development Chair. 8-12 At large lay and clergy**  
 50 **representatives of Small Churches throughout the wider conference**

51 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

52 **MEETINGS: 1/month by zoom**  
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01 **Co-Chairpersons**

02 **The Rev. Derrick Gutierrez (W) (C) (First); Email: [derrick.gutierrez@gmail.com](mailto:derrick.gutierrez@gmail.com)**  
03 **and The Rev. Denny Emrick (S) (C) (First); Email: [dennyemrick@gmail.com](mailto:dennyemrick@gmail.com)**

04  
05 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

06 **The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)**  
07 **The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)**

**The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, (NW Region) (C)**  
**Assoc. Superintendent for Leadership Development**

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10 **Members**

11 **The Rev. Ethel Guy (S) (C) (First)**  
12 **The Rev. Betty Murphy (E) (C) (First)**  
13 **Mr. Stewart Gantt (S) (L) (First)**

**The Rev. Debra Coulbourn (E) (C) (First)**  
**The Rev. Steve Morton (S) (C) (First)**  
**The Rev. Sterling Eaton (S) (C) (First)**

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16 **Disability Concerns. Committee on ¶1653**

17 **PURPOSE:** Elevates awareness of ministry with and for other-abled persons and persons with special needs  
18 **MEMBERSHIP:** 10-18 persons. One person from each district plus others based on disability ministry  
19 **interest or expertise with particular attention to diversity of disabilities and challenges (physical, cognitive,**  
20 **mental, sensory, or emotional development). Shall include persons with physical and mental disabilities and**  
21 **challenges.**

22 **RESOURCE:** Director of Connectional Ministries

23 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

24 **MEETINGS: Zoom, first Thursdays of the month**

25 **Co-Chairperson**

26 **Rev. Monica Guepet (N) (C) (Second) Email: [revmonicaquepet@gmail.com](mailto:revmonicaquepet@gmail.com)**

27 **Ms. Theresa Yorgey (S) (L) (First) Email: [theresavoraev@gmail.com](mailto:theresavoraev@gmail.com)**

28 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

29 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Resident Bishop (C)**

30 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

31 **The Rev Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)**

32 **Members**

33 **Ms. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (Second)**  
34 **The Rev. Brenda Del Rosario (S) (C) (Second)**  
35 **Mrs. Rosalind McKelvey (E) (LW) (Second)**

**The Rev. David G. Goss (N) (C) (Second)**  
**Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)**  
**The Rev. Robert Crane (S) (C) (Second)**

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40 **Domestic Violence Committee**

41 **PURPOSE:** Provides educational events which focus on the issue of domestic violence in order to teach and  
42 **empower all persons to advocate and ultimately help eliminate abuse in relationships.**

43 **MEMBERSHIP:** Up to 12 persons

44 **RESOURCE:** Director of Connectional Ministries

45 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

46 **MEETINGS:** Monthly meetings

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49 **Co-Chairpersons**

50 **Ms. Jody Anderson (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [jander678@gmail.com](mailto:jander678@gmail.com)**

51 **The Rev. Debra A. Coulbourn (E) (C) (First) Email: [pastordebc2953@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebc2953@gmail.com)**

01 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)  
02 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)  
03 Ms. Carol Stevens (LW)

**Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi (C)**

04 Members  
05 Ms. Barbara E. Drake (S) (LW) (Second)  
06 Ms. Phyliss Walsh (S) (LW) (First)  
07 Ms. Theresa Yorgey (S) (LW) (First)

Mrs. Rachel Manson (S) (LW) (Second)  
Ms. Sandy Lewis (S) (LW) (Second)

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11 **Eastern PA Conference Scholarship Committee ¶1634 b (7)**

12 *PURPOSE: Awards scholarships to persons attending United Methodist related seminaries, graduate*  
13 *schools, and undergraduate schools using funds from endowments to the Annual Conference and a*  
14 *budgeted line item, and collection during the first service of Annual Conference.*

15 *MEMBERSHIP: One class consisting of one representative from each district.*

16 *RESOURCE: Chief Financial Officer (CFO)*

17 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

18 *MEETINGS: 2 times a year*

19 Chairperson

20 Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [lenorathompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorathompson@hotmail.com)

21 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

22 **Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

23 Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)

24 Members

25 The Rev. Dr. Christopher J. Kurien (E) (C) (Second)

Mr. John Brooks (E) (LM) (Second)

26 Mrs. Danette Wright-Lee (S) (LW) (Second)

Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)

27 The Rev. Lorraine Foster (C) (E) (First)

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30 **Education Society, Conference**

31 *PURPOSE: Awards Conference scholarships to applicants from the designated education endowment fund*

32 *MEMBERSHIP: 12 Persons. Four classes of 3 persons each, elected for a term of 4 years; lay members to be*  
33 *in the majority. The Conference Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall be the Treasurer of the Conference*

34 *Education Society with voice and vote.*

35 **Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

36 *MEETINGS: January, June, Sept. at 9:30 a.m. at the Conference Office*

37 Chairperson

38 Ms. Frances G. Whittington (S) (LW) (First); Email: [envirogirl75@gmail.com](mailto:envirogirl75@gmail.com)

39 Mrs. Jennifer Hopple (E) (LW) (First); Email: [jen.hopple@cumclansdale.org](mailto:jen.hopple@cumclansdale.org)

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41 Recording Secretary and Treasurer

42 **Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)**

43 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

44 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

45 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

46 Ms. Diana Picurro (EPA & GNJ Staff)

47 Members

48 Mrs. Christy Jacob (S) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Walter Unterberger (W) (C) (Second)

49 Ms. Ruth H. Harmon (S) (LW) (Second)

Mrs. Joann Waddell (E) (LW) (Second)

50 Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)

**Mr. Michael Gold (N) (LM) (First)**

51 **Ms. Lisa Kurtz (W) (LW) (First)**

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01 **Episcopacy, Committee on ¶636**

02 *PURPOSE: Provides guidance, support, and evaluation for the presiding Bishop of the Philadelphia Area*

03 *MEMBERSHIP: This committee is composed of at least 7 but no more than 17 members. Recommended*

04 *from BOD 1/3 laywomen, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 clergy provided that 1 lay person shall be the conference lay leader.*  
05 *Special attention shall be given to the inclusion of representation of diverse racial/ethnic background,*  
06 *youth and young adults, and persons with disabilities; lay and clergy members of the Jurisdictional*  
07 *Committee on Episcopacy. One layperson shall be the Conference Lay Leader. One-fifth of the Committee's*  
08 *membership is to be appointed by the Bishop.*

09 *RESOURCE: Conference Lay Leader, Cabinet Representative, Chair of the Delegation*

10 ***Nominated and Appointed by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership and 1/5 by the Bishop***

11 *MEETINGS: 4-6 times per year*

12 **Chairperson**

13 *Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (EPA) (S) (LM) (First);*  
14 [thompsonconsulting2000@hotmail.com](mailto:thompsonconsulting2000@hotmail.com)

15 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

16 *The Rev. Dawn E. Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Mrs. Judith K. Ehninger (N) (LW)*

17 **Members**

18 *The Rev. Mark Terry (S) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Samuel Kofi Ashley (N) (C) (Second)*

19 *Ms. Kathy Johnson (W) (LW) (First)*

*The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Weber (N) (C) (First)*

20 *Mr. Conner Felty (W) (LM) (First)*

*Ms. Yattah Jones (S) (LM) (First)*

21 *Mrs. Jezerel Gutierrez (W) (LW) (First)*

22 **Equitable Compensation, Commission on ¶625**

23 *PURPOSE: Reviews applications and recommends an annual compensation plan for clergy*

24 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 people. One from each district, plus 6 members-at-large with an equal number of clergy*  
25 *and laity with at least 1 layperson and 1 clergy person from churches of fewer than 200 members.*

26 *Ex-Officio: Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and 1 District Superintendent named by the Bishop.*

27 ***Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

28 *MEETINGS: Zoom as needed.*

29 **Chairperson**

30 *Mr. John P. Lafferty (S) (LM) (First) Email: [johnp@cellmylight.com](mailto:johnp@cellmylight.com)*

31 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

32 *Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)*

33 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

34 *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)*

***District Superintendent Representative***

35 **Members**

36 *Mrs. Beverly Connor (S) (LW) (Second)*

*Rev. Debra A. Coulbourn (E) (C) (Second)*

37 *Mr. David Kling (W) (LM) (Second)*

*Ms. Bethany Gogola (N) (LW) (Second)*

38 *The Rev. Brad Leight (E) (C) (Second)*

*Mr. John Lafferty (S) (LM) (Second)*

39 *The Rev. Blaine Wenger (W) (C) (Second)*

40 **Finance and Administration, Council on ¶611-618**

41 *PURPOSE: Recommends and manages the Conference budget*

42 *MEMBERSHIP: 13 persons. There shall be at least one more lay than clergy member.*

43 *Ex-Officio: Bishop, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Director of Connectional Ministries, and 1 District*  
44 *Superintendent named by the Bishop.*

45 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

46 *MEETINGS: Zoom, 3rd Thursday each Month, 7 pm, not December, June, July*

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President

**Rev. Steve Cherry (S) (C) Email: stcherry10@gmail.com**

Recording Secretary

To be elected by the committee

Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW)**

The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

Conference Lay Leader

Mrs. Jay Kim (EPA&GNJ Staff)

Members

The Rev. Carl Houston (S) (C)

The Rev. Dave Felker (N) (C)

Mrs. Carolyn Pressley (E) (LW)

Ms. Lola Sargent (S) (LW)

Mr. Andy Rozek (E) (LM)

The Rev. Navin Satyavrata (E) (C)

Rev. Joanne Miles (S) (C)

Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck (E) (LW)

The Rev. Robert Strauss (E) (C)

Mr. Shawn Mack (E) (LM)

Ms. Sandi Stovall (S) (LW)

**Human Resources (Personnel) Committee**

**(sub-committee of Finance and Administration, Council on)**

PURPOSE: Assists in hiring and employment concerns for Conference personnel under the auspices of Finance and Administration, Council on.

MEMBERSHIP: 8 people. The committee shall represent the diversity of the Annual Conference and be composed equally of lay (one of whom is the Conference Lay Leader) and clergy. It shall include 1 representative appointed by the Council of Finance and Administration. Ex-Officio: Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

**Nominated By: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

**MEETINGS: Quarterly**

Chairperson

**The Rev. Dave Felker (N) (C) Email: dfelker85@gmail.com**

Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

**Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (LW)**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)

The Rev. Hun Ju Lee (N) (C)

Mrs. Jay Kim (EPA&GNJ Staff)

Representative of Council on Finance & Administration

Members

Mr. Ron Gurka (N) (LM) (Second)

Ms. Joyce Brown (S) (LW) (Second)

Ms. Penny Zimmerman (S) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (First)

**Global Ministries 1633**

PURPOSE: To connect churches to resources of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society. To Cultivate Advance Special giving for missions, missionaries, and UMCOR ministries. To coordinate the itineration visits of missionaries and encourage covenant relationships. To encourage church participation in ministries of mercy and justice that meet human needs. To assist churches in developing abundant health ministries. To promote attendance at Mission U and training in justice advocacy, and to administer the EPC Peace with Justice grants.

01 Membership: EPC Secretary of Global Ministries, Peace with Justice Coordinator, Chair of EPA Congo  
02 Partnership, UMW Social Action Coor., plus clergy and laity from each District interested in Missions, Health  
03 Ministries, and Social Justice Advocacy.

04 RESOURCE: Chairperson of EPA Congo Partnership and Director of Connectional Ministries.

05 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

06 MEETINGS: Zoom, as needed

07  
08 Chairperson

09 Ms. Barbara E. Drake (S) (LW) (Second) Email: [bedrake15@aol.com](mailto:bedrake15@aol.com)

10 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

11 The Rev. Russell Atkinson (S) (C)

Representative from Disaster Response

12 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

13 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

Ms. Jeanne Earnshaw (E) (LW)

14 Members

15 Mrs. Brenda Binns (N) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Jessica Ross (N) (C) (Second)

16 Dr. Barbara Mitchell (E) (LW) (Second)

The Rev. Jesse Coale (S) (C) (First)

17 Dr. Annette Onema-Orbach (E) (LW) (Second)

Mrs. Ruth Carr (S) (LW) (Second)

18 Mrs. Susan Kepner (W) (LW) (Second)

Dr. Ruth Thornton (E) (LW) (Second)

19 Mrs. Penny Harris (W) (LW) (Second)

Mrs. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW) (Second)

20 The Rev. Mark Salvacion (S) (C) (First)

Mr. Edward Gale (E) (LM) (First)

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24 Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team

25 PURPOSE: Provides ongoing training, resources, and support for combatting individualized,  
26 institutionalized, and systemic racism

27 MEMBERSHIP: 12 persons of diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds chosen from among the Healers of the  
28 Conference and who demonstrate the qualifications outlined in the 2002 Core Team working document.

29 RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries

30 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

31 MEETINGS: As determined by the team.

32  
33 Co-Conveners

34 The Rev. David Wesley Brown (S) (C) (Second) Email: [pastdave81@gmail.com](mailto:pastdave81@gmail.com)

35 Mr. Mertice M. Shane (N) (LM) (Second) Email: [pastormert13@gmail.com](mailto:pastormert13@gmail.com)

36 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

37 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

38 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

39 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

The Rev. Noé Gabe López,

Associate Superintendent of Urban Ministries

40  
41 Members

42 The Rev. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne (S) (C) (Second)

Mrs. Lisa Chapman (E) (LW) (Second)

43 The Rev. Alicia Juliá-Stanley (N) (C) (Second)

Mr. John Chapman (E) (LM) (Second)

44 The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)

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48 Higher Education and Campus Ministry, Board of ¶1634

49 PURPOSE: Provides Conference guidelines and support for higher education and various campus ministries  
50 in our Conference.

51 MEMBERSHIP: Persons interested in the ongoing spiritual formation of young adults within the context of  
52 campus life.

53 RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries

01 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

02 *MEETINGS: Quarterly for two half-day conferences & two meetings*

04 Chairperson

05 *The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second) Email: [ibperkowski@gmail.com](mailto:ibperkowski@gmail.com)*

06 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

07 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew L Foster, III (E) (C)*

08 *The Rev. Diana Esposito (S) (C)*

09 Members

10 *Mrs. Jessica Edonick (S) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Lori Wagner (E) (C) (Second)*

11 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*

*Mrs. Krystl Gauld (S) (LW) (Second)*

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15 I-Care Team

16 *PURPOSE: Provides Pastoral support in matters of sexual misconduct by those in ministerial roles that are*  
17 *brought to the attention of the Bishop.*

18 *MEMBERSHIP: no less than 12 persons.*

19 **Appointed By: the Bishop**

20 *MEETINGS: Determined by committee.*

21 Co-Chairperson

22 *The Rev. Dr. Brunilda Martínez (W) (C) Email: [icare-epa@epagnj.org](mailto:icare-epa@epagnj.org)*

23 *The Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks (S) (C) Email: [icare-epa@epagnj.org](mailto:icare-epa@epagnj.org)*

24 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

25 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

26 Members

27 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C)*

*Mr. Maurice Simmons (E) (LM)*

28 *Ms. Susan Adamczyk (E) (LW)*

*Ms. Cressa Morris (E) (LW)*

29 *Ms. Jessica Miller (W) (L)*

*Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW)*

30 *The Rev. Robb Faller (W) (C)*

*The Rev. Allen Keller (S) (C)*

31 *Mrs. Penny Harris (W) (LW)*

*The Rev. Deanna M. Geiter (W) (C)*

32 *Rev. Dave Alderson (N) (C)*

*Mrs. Carol Adams (S) (LW)*

33 *Ms. Dayra Adorno (W) (L)*

*The Rev. Dave Botzer (N) (C)*

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38 Latino Commission ¶1655

39 *PURPOSE: Works to advocate for all ministries related to Latino persons and churches*

40 *MEMBERSHIP: Two persons per Latino congregation or ministry. Ex-Officio: 2 District and/or Associate*  
41 *Superintendents; Director of Connectional Ministries; Coordinator of the Office of Latino Ministries.*

42 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

43 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

44 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

45 Co-Chairpersons

46 *The Rev. Ricardo Ramos (S) (C) (First) Email: [pastorricardo@olivetumc.org](mailto:pastorricardo@olivetumc.org)*

47 *Mr. Marcos Ríos (S) (LM) (Second) Email: [riosmarcos30@gmail.com](mailto:riosmarcos30@gmail.com)*

48  
49 Ex-Officio (Voice only)

50 *The Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz (E) (C)*

*District Superintendent Assignment*

51 *The Rev. Noé Gabe López, Associate Superintendent*

52 *for Urban Ministries (E) (C)*

01 Resources/Advisory (Voice only)  
02 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)  
03 Treasurer  
04 Ms. Beditza Cadillo (E) (LW) (First)  
05

Secretary  
Ms. Laurie Ortiz (S) (LW) (First)

06 Members: Youth Representatives  
07 Mr. Bryan Serrano (S) (LM) (First)  
08 Ms. Melanie Monegro (E) (LW) (First)  
09 Conaregations Representatives  
10 Ms. Vianca Corazon (N) (LW) (First)  
11 Mr. Felix Delgado (E) (LM) (First)  
12 Ms. Carmen Bruno (E) (LW) (First)  
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15

Ms. Michelle Cygan (N) (LW) (First)

Mr. Joaquín De Jesus (W) (LM) (First)  
Ms. Ludi Hernandez (E) (LW) (First)

### Lay Ministry, Board of (631.3)

17 **PURPOSE:** Provides training support and resources for effective lay ministry at the local church, District,  
18 and Conference level.

19 **MEMBERSHIP:** Recommended membership: District Lay Leaders; Conference Lay Leader; Associate  
20 Conference Lay Leader; United Women in Faith representative; United Methodist Men representative;  
21 Youth Council representative; Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Director of Christ Servant  
22 Ministry; Director of Lay Academy; 6 members; and 5 clergy with voice and vote.

23 **RESOURCE:** Director of Connectional Ministries

24 **Nominated by:** Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership

25 **MEETINGS:** Zoom every third Wednesday of the month  
26  
27

#### Chairperson

28 Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM); Email: [confplayleader@epaumc.org](mailto:confplayleader@epaumc.org)

#### Vice-Chairperson

30 Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW)

#### Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

31 Mr. George Hollich (W) (LM)

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

32 Mrs. Judith K. Ehninger (N) (LW)

Ms. Rhonda Rea (E) (LW)

33 Mrs. Brenda Binns (N) (LW)

#### District Lay Leaders

34 Ms. Carol Gibson (E) (LW)

Ms. Frances Whittington (S) (LW)

35 Dr. Dennis Booher (N) (LM)

Ms. Patricia Wilson (N) (LW)

36 Ms. Jennifer Lafferty (S) (LW)

Mrs. Susan Grimm-Mattox (W) (LW)

#### Members

37 Mr. Aubrey L. Bates (S) (LM)

Mrs. Diana Wisley (S) (LW)

### Loan Fund Board

38 **PURPOSE:** Oversees management of the Loan Fund for the Annual Conference)

39 **MEMBERSHIP:** 12 persons. Four classes of 3 persons each elected for a term of 4 years, including the  
40 Conference Chief Financial Officer (CFO), who shall be the Loan Board Treasurer.

41 **Nominated by:** Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership

42 **MEETINGS:** 4th Wednesday of October, January, April, and July, 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Office  
43  
44

#### President

45 Ms. Frances G. Whittington (S) (LW); Email: [enviroqirl75@gmail.com](mailto:enviroqirl75@gmail.com)  
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01 Vice-President  
02 Mr. Jeffrey Paiste, Vice President (N) (LM)

03 Secretary  
04 The Rev. James D. Anderman (W) (C) (Second) Email: [jdanderman@gmail.com](mailto:jdanderman@gmail.com)

05 Treasurer  
06 **Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)**  
07 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

08 Resident Bishop (C)

09 Members

10 Mr. Rick E. Wrisley (S) (LM) The Rev. Steven Jeffrey Handzel (S) (C)  
11 Mr. Dave Sheffield (N) (LM) Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW)  
12 The Rev. Rodney Brailsford (E) (C) Ms. Kimberly McGrath (W) (LW)  
13 Mr. Edward Gross (S) (LM)

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16 **LUMINA (Lancaster United Methodist Inner City Alliance)**

17 PURPOSE: To share the love of God by equipping and encouraging people who experience poverty and  
18 hardship. Our vision for Lancaster City: every person restored to the vital and productive life God intended.

19 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

20 The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C) The Rev. Correen Russo (W) (C)

21 Members

22 Mr. John Hostetter (W) (LM) Mrs. Susan Kepner (W) (LW)  
23 The Rev. Cheryl Zegers (W) (C) Mrs. Susan Voran (W) (LW)  
24 The Rev. Sally Wisner Ott (W) (C) Mrs. Lynn McCord (W) (LW)  
25 Mrs. Pat Lee (W) (LW) Mr. Robert Hean (W) (LM)  
26 Ms. Kathryn Kepner (W) (LW) The Rev. José Tirado (W) (C)  
27 **Mrs. Jessica Henry (W) (LW)**

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30 **Metro Ministries, Inc., United Methodist**

31 PURPOSE: Supports and advocates for ministries in Philadelphia and Chester within the Annual Conference  
32 MEMBERSHIP: 7 people. The Director of Urban and Global Ministries; a D.S. from a Metro district; 2 clergy  
33 representatives from the Metro area; 2 UM laypersons from the metro districts who are active members of  
34 The UMC and residents of the area served by Metro Ministries; 1 UM layperson who is an active member of  
35 a UMC in Chester and is resident of the Chester area. The Conference Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall be  
36 the Treasurer.

37 RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries

38 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

39 MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times per year at Carson Simpson Farm

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41  
42 President

43 The Rev. Robert Johnson (E) (C) (First) Email: [revrlj1@msn.com](mailto:revrlj1@msn.com)

44 Secretary

45 Mrs. Millicent Clark (E) (LW) (Second)

46 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

47 The Rev. Dr. Andrew L Foster, III (E) (C)

48 The Rev. Myra Maxwell (S) (C)

49 Mr. Jonathan Curtis (E) (LM)

50 Mr. John Brooks (S) (LM)

Treasurer

**Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)**

The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

The Rev. Noé Gabe López, Associate Superintendent  
of Urban Ministries

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Members

Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)  
Mr. Lawrence Lee (S) (LM)  
Ms. Janet A Mills (E) (LW)  
Rev. Eric Carr (S) (C)

Mr. Les Brown (E) (LM)  
Ms. Marilyn Mason (E) (LW)  
Ms. Charisma Presley (E) (LW)

**Mid-Atlantic UM Foundation**

*PURPOSE: To oversee the investment strategies and management of all assets held by the Mid-Atlantic Foundation and provide stewardship education and resources.*

*MEMBERSHIP: 8-16 persons. Nominated by the Foundation; elected by the Annual Conferences, three of these shall be the Conference Treasurers/CFOs of the Conferences served, or an appointed representative of the Conference.*

**Nominated by: Membership of the Board**

*MEETINGS: The Board meets quarterly in February, May, August, and November.*

President

**Mr. Barry Rose(E) (LM) Email: [gbrsoccer@aol.com](mailto:gbrsoccer@aol.com)**

Vice-President

The Rev. Daniel Hepner (E) (C)

Secretary

Ms. Tammy Bowman (S) (LW)

Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

Mr. Philip Rutledge, Esq.

Conference Treasurers

Mr. William E. Westbrook (PenDel) (LM)

Mr. Paul J. Eichelberger (BaltWash) (LM)

**Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley (EPA) (LW)**

EPA Members

Ms. Sharon Hermann (EPA-S) (LW)

Mr. Barry Rose(EPA-E) (LM)

The Rev. Daniel Hepner (EPA-E) (C)

Ms. Tammy Bowman (EPA-S) (LW)

The Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks (EPA-S) (C)

The Rev. Johnson Dodla (EPA-S) (C)

Other Members

Mr. Barry A. Crozier (PD) (LM)

Mr. John Ridgeway (PD) (LM)

Ms. Marsha Johnson (PD) (LW)

Mr. Lawrence Pelham (PD) (LM)

Ms. Barbara Rutt (PD) (LW)

The Rev. Conrad Link (BW) (C)

Mr. Clarence White (BW) (LM)

The Rev. Andrea King (BW) (C)

Mid Atlantic UM Foundation Staff

Executive Director

Mr. John Brooks (LM) Email: [jackbrooks.mafoundation@gmail.com](mailto:jackbrooks.mafoundation@gmail.com)

Associate Director

Mr. Frank C. Robert (LM)

Operations Manager

Ms. Tracy Brown (LW)

Assistant Directors

Ms. Annabel Lusardi (LW)

Rev. Cary James (C)

Mr. Tom Tenesa (LM)

Coordinator of Coaching Services

Ms. Kendell Daly (LW)

01  
02 **Native American Ministries, Committee on ¶654**

03 *PURPOSE: Develops and promotes Native American ministries across the EPA; gives voice to Native*  
04 *Americans; provides leadership to the Conference to meet the mandate to recognize the gifts and*  
05 *contributions made by Native Americans to our society*

06 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 persons. 2 co-chairpersons, financial secretary; 6 members to include persons of*  
07 *Native American heritage and non-Native Americans with a passion for NA ministries.*

08 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

09 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

10 *MEETINGS: As determined by the committee*

11 **Co-Chairpersons**

12 **To Be Elected by Committee**

13 **Secretary**

14 *Ms. Verna Colliver (E) (LW) (Second)*

15 **Treasurer**

16 *Ms. Joy Frazier (E) (LW) (Second)*

17 **Member Emeritus (Voice and Vote)**

18 *Mr. Bob C. Hinderliter (S) (LM)*

19 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

20 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Mr. Ron Williams (First)*

21 *Mrs. Sharon Wack (S) (LW) (Second)*

22 **Members**

23 *The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Wenonah Duchesne (C) (Second)*

*Mr. Mike Shifflet (W) (LM) (Second)*

24 *Mrs. Paula Shifflet (W) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Robert Coombe (E) (C) (First)*

25 *The Rev. Andrea Haldeman (W) (C) (First)*

*Ms. Ann Abbott (S) (LW) (First)*

26 *Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW) (Second)*

*Ms. Sandra Cianciulli (E) (LW) (Second)*

27 ***The Rev. Barbara Lee (N) (C) (First)***

***Ms. Terri Leone (S) (LW) (First)***

28 ***The Rev. Deborah Appler (N) (C) (First)***

***The Rev. John Coleman (GNJ) (C) (First)***

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31 **Ordained Ministry, Board of ¶635**

32 *PURPOSE: Oversees the entire process of ordination for all candidates for ordained ministry within the*  
33 *annual conference*

34 *MEMBERSHIP: In accordance with para. 635. A term of four years. EPA rules for BOOM are no more than 3*  
35 *quadrennium. At least 6 ordained elders and deacons in full connection, and when possible, at least two*  
36 *associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as members*  
37 *of the board with voice and vote. At last 1/3 laypersons that can include diaconal ministers and can be up to*  
38 *1/3 laypersons. Membership shall include women and ethnic persons, at least one ordained clergyperson in*  
39 *the retired relationship, at least one ordained clergyperson in extension ministry, and when possible at*  
40 *least one young adult clergyperson in full connection age 35 or younger and a district superintendent*  
41 *named by the bishop to represent the cabinet.*

42 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader*

43 **Nominated by: the Bishop**

44 *MEETINGS: 6 to 8 meetings per year at West Lawn UMC*

45 **Co-Chairpersons**

46 *The Rev. Tracy Duncan (S) (C) (First) Email: [revtracy51@gmail.com](mailto:revtracy51@gmail.com)*

47 ***The Rev. Dorry Kuhn Newcomer (E) (C) (First) Email: [dorry.newcomer@yahoo.com](mailto:dorry.newcomer@yahoo.com)***



01 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)  
 02 North DCOM Chair(s) West DCOM Chair(s)  
 03 South DCOM Chair(s) East DCOM Chair(s)  
 04 Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)  
 05  
 06 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)  
 07 Cabinet Representative Director of Connectional Ministries  
 08 Cabinet Representative  
 09 Registrar  
 10 The Rev. Deborah Gildart-Hanks (S) (C)  
 11 Treasurer Secretary  
 12 To be Elected by BOOM To be Elected by BOOM  
 13 Members  
 14 The Rev. Tawny L. Bernhardt (E) (C) Ms. Sheri Kentner (S) (LW)  
 15 The Rev. Bradley Leight (E) (C) The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C)  
 16 The Rev. Greg Impink (S) (C) The Rev. Darryl Stephens (W) (C)  
 17 The Rev. Nina Patton-Semerod (N) (C) The Rev. Mark Terry (S) (C)  
 18 The Rev. Thomas Ebersole (S) (C) Mrs. Karen Fisher (E) (LW)  
 19 Ms. Carol Gibson (E) (LW) Mr. Ken Dickinson (E) (LM)  
 20 The Rev. Eric Yeakal (N) (C) The Rev. John Smith (W) (C)  
 21 The Rev. Jen Miller (N) (C) The Rev. Wendy Orzolek (S) (C)  
 22 The Rev. Mark Young (S) (C) Mr. Joe Skarbowski (W) (LM)  
 23 **The Rev. Joy Griffin (S) (C)** **The Rev. Eric Carr (S) (C)**  
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28 **Prison Ministries and Restorative Justice**

29 *PURPOSE: Support and promote criminal justice and mercy ministries in local churches; provide resources,*  
 30 *training, and networking for restorative justice ministries; encourage local congregations to develop prison*  
 31 *and restorative justice ministries*

32 *MEMBERSHIP: Up to 10 persons. Chairperson; 1 member from each district, other interested persons*

33 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

34 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

35 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

36  
 37  
 38 Chairperson

39 The Rev. Marilyn Schneider (S) (C) (Second) Email: [mschneider2222@gmail.com](mailto:mschneider2222@gmail.com)

40 Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)

41 **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)**

42 Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)

43 The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)

44 Members

45 Mr. Scott Johnson (S) (LM) (Second)

The Rev. Jeffrey Kapp (W) (C) (Second)

46 Mr. Luke Taylor-Storm (S) (LM) (Second)

Ms. Valerie Langston (S) (LW) (Second)

47 Mrs. Lorraine Haw (E) LW (Second)

48 **Mrs. Lisa Flory (W) (RD) (First)**

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01 **Religion and Race, Commission on 1643**

02 *PURPOSE: Advocates for inclusion, respect, and justice for all persons regardless of racial/ethnic identity or*  
03 *religion.*

04 *MEMBERSHIP: min 10 people. One from each district plus 6 or more persons for expertise or interest.*

05 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

06 *MEETINGS: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. via Zoom*

07  
08  
09 **Co-Chairpersons**

10 *Ms. Barbara Revere (E) (LW) (First) Email: [bre2696294@aol.com](mailto:bre2696294@aol.com)*

11 **The Rev. Stacey Jones-Anderson (S) (C) (First) Email: [revsja2016@gmail.com](mailto:revsja2016@gmail.com)**

12 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

13 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer (W) (C)*

14 *The Rev. Noé Gabe López, Associate Superintendent*  
15 *for Urban Ministries (C)*

*Mr. Mertice M. Shane (N) (LM)*

*The Rev. David Wesley Brown (E) (C)*

16 **Members**

17 *The Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz (E) (C)*

*The Rev. Mel Lehman (S) (C) (Second)*

18 *The Rev. Beverly Andrews (W) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*

19 *Ms. Janet A. Mills (E) (LW) (First)*

*The Rev. John Bletsch (S) (C) (Second)*

20 *The Rev. Robert Johnson (E) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Jacqueline Tilford (S) (C) (First)*

21 *Mr. Dennis Fisher (E) (LM) (Second)*

***The Rev. Barbara Lee (N) (Clergy) (First)***

22 *The Rev. Eddie Cameron (S) (C) (First)*

***The Rev. Mark Salvacion (S) (C) (First)***

23 ***The Rev. Raphael Koikoi (E) (C) (First)***

24  
25  
26  
27 **Safe Sanctuaries**

28 *PURPOSE: Educates and creates guidelines for providing safe spaces for children and youth in*  
29 *church-related activities*

30 *MEMBERSHIP: 10 persons representing all districts, one laity, and one clergy, 1/2 of whom shall be persons*  
31 *of diverse racial/ethnic background. Three classes of 4 persons serving a 4-year term. Ex-Officio:*

32 *Chairperson of I-Care Team, Representative of Conference Trustees.*

33 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

34 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

35 *MEETINGS: Four times a year as scheduled by the chairperson to review all church's Safe Sanctuaries*  
36 *policies for compliance*

37  
38 **Chairperson**

39 *The Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski (E) (C) (First) Email: [pastorjackiedd@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjackiedd@gmail.com)*

40 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

41 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

42 *Representative of Conference Trustees*

43 *Representative of I-Care*

***The Rev. Lorelei Toombs, Associate Superintendent***  
***of Leadership Development***

44 **Members**

45 *The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C) (Second)*

*Ms. Kathy Dries (E) (LW) (Second)*

46 *Mrs. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (First)*

*Mr. Lemuel (Jack) Ross, Jr. (S) (LM) (Second)*

47 *Mrs. Maryann Griffith (S) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Bob Garvey (W) (C) (First)*

*Ms. Joyce Gailliard (E) (LW) (First)*

01 **Status and Role of Women, Commission on ¶644**

02 *PURPOSE: Advocates for the status and the role of women in all Conference events and promotes women in*  
03 *leadership positions*

04 *MEMBERSHIP: Determined by Annual Conference in compliance with Discipline, paragraph 644 which*  
05 *recommends 1/3 laywomen, 1/3 laymen, 1/3 clergy with the majority being women. Recommend by EPA: One*  
06 *representative from each district; 1 representative from the Board of Ordained Ministry; 1 representative*  
07 *from UMW and UMM; 6 members for expertise and/or balance.*

08 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

09 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

10 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

11 **Chairperson**

12 *The Rev. Debra A. Coulbourn (E) (C) (First) Email: [pastordebc2953@gmail.com](mailto:pastordebc2953@gmail.com)*

13 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

14 ***Mr. Edward Gale (S) (LM) (First)***

15 **Resource/Ad (Voice Only)**

16 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

17 **Members**

18 *Mrs. Ethel L. Malone (E) (LW) (Second)*

*Ms. Janet A. Mills (E) (LW) (Second)*

19 *Ms. Patricia Wilson (N) (LW) (Second)*

*Mrs. Ethel K. Hibbs (E) (LW) (Second)*

20 *The Rev. Betty Murphy (E) (C) (First)*

*Ms. Tonya Goodwin (E) (LW) (First)*

21 *Ms. Suzette James (E) (LW) (First)*

*Mrs. Catherine Exum (S) (LW) (First)*

22 *Deaconess Barbara Skarbowski (W) (LW)*

23 **Trustees, Board of ¶640 and 2512**

24 *PURPOSE: Oversees the maintenance, use, and value of all assets owned by the Conference.*

25 *MEMBERSHIP: 12 persons. It is recommended that 1/3 be clergy, 1/3 laymen, and 1/3 laywomen. Three*  
26 *trustees shall be elected each year for a term of 4 years and may serve a second term.*

27 *RESOURCE: The Bishop, Director of Connectional Ministries, District Superintendent selected by the Bishop,*  
28 *Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Conference Chancellor*

29 ***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***

30 *MEETINGS: 1st Thursday (September to June) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm via ZOOM*

31 **President**

32 *Mr. VK Macwana (E) (LM) Email: [vkmacwana@epaumc.org](mailto:vkmacwana@epaumc.org)*

33 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

34 ***Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)***

*The Rev Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III (C) (E)*

35 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

***Ms. Na'Aisa Ausley (LW)***

36 *Conference Chancellor*

37 **Vice-President**

38 *Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens (N) (C)*

39 **Secretary**

40 *Rev. Mary Jane Kirby (N) (C)*

41 **Members**

42 *Mr. Jon M. Gruber (W) (LM)*

*The Rev Rose Marquardt (N) (C)*

43 *The Rev Rick Wrisley (S) (C)*

*The Rev. Sunil Balasundaram (E) (C)*

44 *The Rev. Rodney Brailsford (E) (C)*

*The Rev. Julian Milewski (N) (C)*

45 *The Rev. Greg Ellis (N) (C)*

*Mrs. Marilyn Mason (E) (LW)*

46 *Mr. Bob Lamson (N) (LM)*

**United Methodist Men**

*PURPOSE: To engage all United Methodist men in ministry, missions, and spiritual growth opportunities*

*MEMBERSHIP: As determined by the UMM.*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*

***Nominated by: the Membership***

*MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of every month*

**President**

*Mr. Edward Gale (S) (LM) Email: [edgale09@gmail.com](mailto:edgale09@gmail.com)*

**Vice-President**

*To be elected by UMM*

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

***Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)***

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

**Secretary**

*To be elected by UMM*

**Members**

*The Rev. David Botzer (N) (C)*

*The Rev. Sterling Eaton (S) (C)*

*Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)*

*The Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III (E) (C)*

**Treasurer**

*Mr. Delno Moyer (S) (LM)*

*The Rev. Derrick Gutiérrez (W) (C)*

*Mr. Medford Pinkett (E) (LM)*

**United Women in Faith**

*PURPOSE: To engage women in faith in ministry, missions, and spiritual growth opportunities*

*MEMBERSHIP: As determined by United Women in Faith*

*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader*

***Nominated by: the Membership***

*MEETINGS: As planned annually throughout the Annual Conference*

**President**

***Rhonda Rea (E) (LW) Email: [jrpiz@aol.com](mailto:jrpiz@aol.com)***

**Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

***Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi (C)***

***Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)***

***Deaconess Myka Kennedy Stephens,***

***National Program Advisory Group (PAG), (W) (LW)***

**Co-Vice-Presidents**

*Mrs. Susan Hill (N) (LW)*

**Secretary**

*Mrs. Necia Tyree (S) (LW)*

**Members:**

*Ms. Frances Whittington (S) (LW)*

*Mrs. Joy Frazier (E) (LW)*

***Ms. Ruth Carr (S) (LW)***

*Ms. Linda Youngstrom (S) (LW)*

***Dr. Annette Onema-Orbach (E) (LW)***

***Mrs. Truzella Jacobs (E) (LW)***

*Ms. Sandie Wilson (E) (LW)*

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

*Mrs. Robin Miller (N) (LW)*

**Treasurer**

***Mrs. Lillian Mannon (E) (LW)***

*Deaconess Barbara Skarbowski (W) (LW)*

*Mrs. Maryann Repsher (N) (LW)*

*Deaconess Barbara Drake (S) (LW)*

*Dr. Polly Riddle (E) (LW)*

*Mrs. Elaine Brown (S) (LW)*

*Mrs. Linda Scott (E) (LW)*

01 **Urban Commission**

02 *PURPOSE: Works to advocate for ministries related to children, youth, and adults in urban settings*  
03 *MEMBERSHIP: up to 25 persons, lay and clergy, who are passionate, and/or, sense a call to and/or, are*  
04 *presently engaged in urban ministry with particular attention to diversity and location in metropolitan*  
05 *areas in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Ex-Officio: Associate Superintendent of Urban Ministries; one*  
06 *District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet, Coordinator of Latino Ministries*  
07 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Communications Representative*  
08 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**  
09 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

10 **Co-Chairpersons**

11 *The Rev. David Eckert (S) (C) (Second) Email: [pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com)*

12 *The Rev. Myra Maxwell (E) (C) (Second) Email: [pastormyrajmax1@gmail.com](mailto:pastormyrajmax1@gmail.com)*

13 **Resource/Advisory (Voice Only)**

14 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor Storm (S) (C)*

15 **Ex-Officio (Voice and Vote)**

16 **The Rev. Noé Gabe López, Associate Superintendent** *District Superintendent Representative*  
17 **of Urban Ministries (C)** *The Rev. María (Lisa) Quesada DePaz (E) (C)*

18 **The Rev. Sarah Borgstrom Lee (EPA)**

19 **Members**

20 *The Rev. Dr. Brunilda Martínez (W) (C) (Second)*

*Mr. Maurice Simmons (E) (LM) (Second)*

21 *The Rev. Alicia M. Juliá-Stanley (N) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Robin Hynicka (E) (C) (Second)*

22 *The Rev. Victor Giménez (S) (C) (Second)*

*The Rev. Eric Carr (E) (C) (Second)*

23 *Ms. Jean Kershaw (E) (LW) (Second)*

*The Rev. Correen Russo (W) (C) (Second)*

24 *The Rev. Navin Satyavrata (E) (C) (Second)*

*Ms. Lenora Thompson (S) (LW) (Second)*

25 *Dr. Lewis Wilford (S) (LM) (Second)*

*Ms. Donna Burchess (N) (LW) (First)*

26 *Ms. Clare Schilling (S) (LW) (First)*

*The Rev. Terry Bridges (E) (C) (Second)*

27 *Ms. Michelle Cygan (N) (LW) (First)*

*Ms. Karyn Schoolfield (S) (LW) (First)*

28 *The Rev. Lela Hartranft (N) (C) (First)*

*Ms. Vianca Corazon (N) (LW) (First)*

29 **The Rev. Ricardo Ramos (S) (C) (First)**

30 **Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response**

31 *PURPOSE: Promotes and supports the Volunteers in Mission program that sends workgroups to various*  
32 *mission sites. Responds to disasters and keeps the conference informed about disasters within the bounds*  
33 *of the conference, and trains coordinators at least once a quadrennium.*

34 *MEMBERSHIP: Recommend: one from each district; EPA Disaster Response Coordinator, EPA Early*  
35 *Response Coordinator, EPA Early Response Team Coordinator, Volunteers in Missions Coordinator, and*  
36 *persons specializing in site management, training, mitigation, and disaster spiritual care.*

37 *RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries*

38 **Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership**

39 *MEETINGS: As determined by committee*

40 **Chairperson**

41 *The Rev. Russell Atkinson (S) (C) Email: [pastor@dhum.org](mailto:pastor@dhum.org)*

42 **Resource/Advisory (Voice only)**

43 *The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*

44 *Mrs. Denise Shelton (S) (LW)*

*The Rev. J. Allen Keller (S) (C)*

45 **Members**

46 *The Rev. Dr. David P. Harris (W) (C)*

47 *Mrs. Susan Grimm Mattox (W) (LW)*

*The Rev. Bernard J. Kefer (N) (C)*

**Wesley Student Foundation: Drexel**

*PURPOSE: UMC Campus Ministry at Drexel University*  
*MEMBERSHIP: As directed by the bylaws*  
*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*  
*Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership*  
*MEETINGS: 3 to 4 times a year as needs arise*

**Resource/Advisory (Voice only)**

*The Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*  
*The Rev. Diana Esposito (S) (C)*  
*Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)*

***Ms. Na’Aisa Ausley, CFO (LW)***  
*District Superintendent Representative*

**Members**

*The Rev. David Piltz (E) (C)*  
*Ms. Jessica Jushchyshyn (Drexel)*  
*Mx. Ollie Richard (Drexel)*  
*The Rev. Michael Callahan (S) (C)*  
***Ms. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW)***  
***The Rev. Meagan Esterby (Drexel)***

*Mr. Patrick Chapagain (Drexel)*  
*The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C)*  
*The Rev. Joanne Miles (S) (C)*  
*The Rev. Victor Giménez (S) (C)*  
***Mr. Zack Levy-Dyer (Drexel)***

**Youth (¶649) & Young Adult Ministries (¶650). Council on**

*PURPOSE: Plans and supports ministries that enable youth (ages 12-18) and young adults (ages 19-35) to be actively involved in the life of the church*  
*MEMBERSHIP: Recommended Young Adult: representation from all four districts. Recommended Youth: as listed in (¶649 & 650)*  
*RESOURCE: Director of Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, one District Superintendent selected by the Bishop and Cabinet*  
***Nominated by: Conference Committee on Nominations & Leadership***  
*MEETINGS: 4 to 6 times a year as needs arise in various settings based on events throughout the year*

**Resource/Ad (Voice Only)**

*The Rev. Dawn E. Taylor-Storm (S) (C)*  
*District Superintendent Representative*

***Mr. Eric Drew (EPA&GNJ Staff)***  
*Mr. William Preston Thompson Sr. (S) (LM)*

**Members**

*Mrs. Denise J. Harris (E) (LW) (Second)*  
*The Rev. Victor Giménez (S) (C) (Second)*  
*The Rev. Eric W. Carr (S) (C) (Second)*

*Mrs. Elizabeth Christie (N) (LW) (First)*  
*The Rev. Jason Perkowski (W) (C) (Second)*  
*Mr. José Tirado (W) (LM) (First)*

**Youth Jurisdictional Representative 2024**

*Ms. Alisabeth Guepet (N) (LW)*

01  
02  
03 **Eastern PA Connectional Table**

04 *PURPOSE: The purpose of the Connectional Table (CT) is for the discernment and articulation of the vision*  
05 *for the Annual Conference and the stewardship of the mission, ministries, and resources of The Eastern PA*  
06 *Conference as determined by the actions of the Annual Conference and in consultation with the Council of*  
07 *Bishops.*

08  
09 *MEMBERSHIP: Each committee chairperson of the Annual Conference or representative*

10 *RESOURCE: Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministry*

11 *MEETINGS: 4-6 times per year*  
12

13 *Lenora Thompson, Chairperson (LW) Email: [lenorathompson@hotmail.com](mailto:lenorathompson@hotmail.com)*  
14

15 **Membership**

|                                  |   |                                   |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 17 <i>James Anderman</i>         | <i>Conference Sessions</i>                              | <i>pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org</i> |
| 18                               |   |                                   |
| 19 <i>Jody Anderson</i>          | <i>Domestic Violence Ministry, Chair</i>                | <i>jander678@gmail.com</i>        |
| 20                               |   |                                   |
| 21 <i>Russell Atkinson</i>       | <i>Volunteers in Mission (VIM)</i>                      | <i>pastor@dhum.org</i>            |
| 22                               |   |                                   |
| 23 <i>Truman Brooks</i>          | <i>I-Care Team, Co-Chair</i>                            | <i>icare-epa@epagnj.org</i>       |
| 24                               |   |                                   |
| 25 <i>David Brown</i>            | <i>Healing the Wounds, Co - Convener</i>                | <i>pastdave81@gmail.com</i>       |
| 26                               |   |                                   |
| 27 <i>Steve Cherry</i>           | <i>Conference Council on Finance and Administration</i> | <i>stcherry10@gmail.com</i>       |
| 28                               |   |                                   |
| 29 <i>Deborah Coulbourn</i>      | <i>Status and Role of Women, Chair</i>                  | <i>pastordeb2953@gmail.com</i>    |
| 30                               |   |                                   |
| 31 <i>Jacqueline Daniszewski</i> | <i>Safe Sanctuaries, Coord.</i>                         | <i>pastorjackiedd@gmail.com</i>   |
| 32                               |   |                                   |
| 33 <i>Lisa DePaz</i>             | <i>Latino Ministries, Coord.</i>                        | <i>ldepaz@epagnj.org</i>          |
| 34                               |   |                                   |
| 35 <i>Barbara Drake</i>          | <i>Global Ministries Team, Chair</i>                    | <i>bedrake15@aol.com</i>          |
| 36                               |   |                                   |
| 37 <i>Tracy Duncan</i>           | <i>Board of Ordained Ministry, Co-Chair</i>             | <i>revtracy51@gmail.com</i>       |
| 38                               |   |                                   |
| 39 <i>David Eckert</i>           | <i>Urban Commission, Co Chair</i>                       | <i>pastordavid.mumc@gmail.com</i> |
| 40                               |   |                                   |
| 41 <i>David Felker</i>           | <i>Human Resource Committee, Chair</i>                  | <i>dfelker85@gmail.com</i>        |
| 42                               |   |                                   |
| 43 <i>Edward Gale</i>            | <i>United Methodist Men, Chair</i>                      | <i>edgale09@gmail.com</i>         |
| 44                               |   |                                   |
| 45 <i>Maryann Griffith</i>       | <i>Conference Committee on Leadership, Co-Chair</i>     | <i>magteaches424@gmail.com</i>    |
| 46                               |   |                                   |
| 47 <i>Monica Guepet</i>          | <i>Committee on Disability Concerns, Co-Chair</i>       | <i>revmonicaguepet@gmail.com</i>  |
| 48                               |   |                                   |
| 49 <i>Robert Johnson</i>         | <i>President of Metro Ministries</i>                    | <i>revrlj1@msn.com</i>            |
| 50                               |   |                                   |
| 51 <i>Stacey Jones-Anderson</i>  | <i>Religion &amp; Race, Committee on, Co-Chair</i>      | <i>revsja2016@gmail.com</i>       |
| 52                               |   |                                   |
| 53 <i>Sue Kiefner</i>            | <i>Communication Ministry, Chair</i>                    | <i>suekiefner@gmail.com</i>       |
| 54                               |   |                                   |

|    |                             |  |                                      |
|----|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 01 |                             |  |                                      |
| 02 | <i>Alvin Kingcade</i>       | <i>Board of Benefits, President</i>                            | <i>alvin.kingcade@comcast.net</i>    |
| 03 | <i>John Lafferty</i>        | <i>Equitable Compensation, Chairperson</i>                     | <i>johnp@cellmylight.com</i>         |
| 04 | <i>VK Macwana</i>           | <i>Trustees, Board of, President</i>                           | <i>vkmacwana@epaumc.org</i>          |
| 05 |                             |  |                                      |
| 06 | <i>Bruny Martinez</i>       | <i>I-Care Team, Co-Chair</i>                                   | <i>icare-epa@epagnj.org</i>          |
| 07 |                             |  |                                      |
| 08 | <i>Myra Maxwell</i>         | <i>Urban Commission, Co-Chair</i>                              | <i>myrajmax1@gmail.com</i>           |
| 09 |                             |  |                                      |
| 10 | <i>Steve Morton</i>         | <i>Congregational Development Team, Chair (interim)</i>        | <i>scmorton3@gmail.com</i>           |
| 11 |                             |  |                                      |
| 12 | <i>Dorry Newcomer</i>       | <i>Board of Ordained Ministry, Co-Chair</i>                    | <i>dorry.newcomer@yahoo.com</i>      |
| 13 |                             |  |                                      |
| 14 | <i>Jason Perkowski</i>      | <i>Higher Education &amp; Campus Ministry, Board of, Chair</i> | <i>jbperkowski@gmail.com</i>         |
| 15 |                             |  |                                      |
| 16 | <i>David Piltz</i>          | <i>Conference Committee on Leadership, Co-Chair</i>            | <i>pastorpiltz@gmail.com</i>         |
| 17 |                             |  |                                      |
| 18 | <i>Ricardo Ramos</i>        | <i>Latino Commission, Co-Chair</i>                             | <i>pastorricardo@olivetumc.org</i>   |
| 19 |                             |  |                                      |
| 20 | <i>Rhonda Rea</i>           | <i>United Women in Faith, President</i>                        | <i>jrpic@aol.com</i>                 |
| 21 |                             |  |                                      |
| 22 | <i>Barbara Revere</i>       | <i>Religion &amp; Race, Committee on, Co Chair</i>             | <i>bre2696294@aol.com</i>            |
| 23 |                             |  |                                      |
| 24 | <i>Marcos Ríos</i>          | <i>Latino Commission, Co-Chair</i>                             | <i>riosmarcos30@gmail.com</i>        |
| 25 |                             |  |                                      |
| 26 | <i>Mert Shane</i>           | <i>Healing the Wounds, Co - Convener</i>                       | <i>pastormert13@gmail.com</i>        |
| 27 |                             |  |                                      |
| 28 | <i>Denise Shelton</i>       | <i>Disaster Response Committee, Coordinator (temp)</i>         | <i>dshelton@epagnj.org</i>           |
| 29 |                             |  |                                      |
| 30 | <i>Jared Stoltzfus</i>      | <i>Camping &amp; Retreat, Board of, Chair</i>                  | <i>pastorjstoltzfus@gmail.com</i>    |
| 31 |                             |  |                                      |
| 32 | <i>Bill Thompson</i>        | <i>Conference Lay Leader</i>                                   | <i>conflayleader@epaumc.org</i>      |
| 33 |                             |  |                                      |
| 34 | <i>Lenora Thompson</i>      | <i>Scholarship Committee &amp; Connectional Table, Chair</i>   | <i>lenorathompson@hotmail.com</i>    |
| 35 |                             |  |                                      |
| 36 | <i>Theresa Yorgey</i>       | <i>Committee on Disability Concerns, Co-Chair</i>              | <i>theresayorgey@gmail.com</i>       |
| 37 |                             |  |                                      |
| 38 | <i>R. Mark Young</i>        | <i>Archives &amp; History, Commission on, Chair</i>            | <i>alvkrinst@aol.com</i>             |
| 39 | <i>[Elected by Comm]</i>    | <i>CONAM, Co-Chairs</i>  |                                      |
| 40 |                             |  |                                      |
| 41 |                             |  |                                      |
| 42 |                             | <b>Advisory</b>  |                                      |
| 43 |                             |  |                                      |
| 44 | <i>Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi</i> | <i>Bishop</i>  | <i>bishopmoore-koikoi@epagnj.org</i> |
| 45 |                             |  |                                      |
| 46 | <i>Sean Lee</i>             | <i>Assistant to the Bishop</i>                                 | <i>slee@epagnj.org</i>               |
| 47 |                             |  |                                      |
| 48 | <i>Dawn Taylor-Storm</i>    | <i>Connectional Ministries, Director</i>                       | <i>dtaylorstorm@epagnj.org</i>       |
| 49 |                             |  |                                      |
| 50 | <i>Na'Aisa Ausley</i>       | <i>CFO/ Treasurer</i>  | <i>nausley@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 51 |                             |  |                                      |
| 52 | <i>Na'Aisa Ausley</i>       | <i>Executive Director, Board of Benefits</i>                   | <i>nausley@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 53 |                             |  |                                      |
| 54 |                             |  |                                      |



|    |                            |   |                                    |
|----|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 01 |                            |   |                                    |
| 02 | <i>Hun Ju Lee</i>          | <i>Cabinet Representative</i>                             | <i>hjlee@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 03 | <i>Sarah Borgstrom Lee</i> | <i>Director of Communications</i>                         | <i>sborgstromlee@epagnj.org</i>    |
| 04 |                            |   |                                    |
| 05 | <i>Apryl Miller</i>        | <i>Gretna Glen Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i>    | <i>amiller@gretnaglen.org</i>      |
| 06 |                            |   |                                    |
| 07 | <i>Michael Hyde</i>        | <i>Innabah Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i>        | <i>mhyde@innabah.camp</i>          |
| 08 |                            |   |                                    |
| 09 | <i>Jonathan Curtis</i>     | <i>Carson Simpson Farm, Director</i>                      | <i>director@csfarm.org</i>         |
| 10 |                            |   |                                    |
| 11 | <i>Carmen O'Shea</i>       | <i>Pocono Plateau Camp &amp; Retreat Center, Director</i> | <i>director@poconoplateau.org</i>  |
| 12 |                            |   |                                    |
| 13 | <i>Marilyn Schneider</i>   | <i>Prison Ministry &amp; Restorative Justice, Chair</i>   | <i>prisonministries@epagnj.org</i> |
| 14 |                            |   |                                    |
| 15 | <i>Denise Shelton</i>      | <i>Disaster Recovery Director</i>                         | <i>dshelton@epagnj.org</i>         |
| 16 |                            |   |                                    |
| 17 | <i>Eric Drew</i>           | <i>Youth and Young Adult Ministry</i>                     | <i>edrew@epagnj.org</i>            |
| 18 |                            |   |                                    |
| 19 |                            |   |                                    |
| 20 |                            |   |                                    |

**Committee on Investigation**

*PURPOSE: Consider judicial complaints against clergy members of the annual conference, clergy members on honorable location or administrative location from that annual conference, local pastors, and diaconal ministers*

*MEMBERSHIP: Four clergy members in full connection, three professing members*

***Nominated by:*** *the presiding bishop in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry (for clergy members) and the conference board of laity (for professing members) and elected quadrennially by the annual conference.*

*MEETINGS: As needed*

*CHAIR: To be determined by committee*

**Members:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Rev. Lydia Munoz (C) (E)</i>        | <i>Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks III (C) (S)</i> |
| <i>Rev. David W. Brown (E) (E)</i>     | <i>Rev. Thomas Ebersole (C) (S)</i>       |
| <i>Mrs. Truzella V. Jacobs (L) (E)</i> | <i>Mr. Alvin Kincade (L) (S)</i>          |
| <i>Mrs. Julie C. Perkowski (L) (W)</i> |   |

**Alternates:**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Rev. James E. Heath</i>               | <i>Rev. Helen L. Adams (C) (W)</i>   |
| <i>Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley (C) (W)</i> | <i>Mrs. Linda S. Seybold (L) (S)</i> |
| <i>Ms. Lenora Thompson (L) (S)</i>       | <i>Mrs. Dannette Wright-Lee</i>      |
| <i>Mr. John J. Paylor (L) (S)</i>        |                                      |

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01 **East District**

02  
03 **Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III, District Superintendent**  
04 **Mrs. Carol Gibson, District Lay Leader**

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06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

08  
09 **Chairperson:** Rev. Robert Strauss, Clergy

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III

11  
12 **Members:**

13 **Class of 2026:**

14 Rev. Robert Strauss, Clergy Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Clergy Mr. Les Brown, Laity

15  
16 **Class of 2027:**

17 Mrs. Karen Fisher, Laity Mr. Gerald Ketter, Laity Mr. Kenneth Kugel, Laity

18 **Class of 2028:**

19 Mr. Andy Rozek, Laity Mr. Maurice Simmons, Laity

20  
21  
22 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY**

23 **Chairperson:** Rev. Don Keller

24 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III

25 **Registrar:** Ms. Sandra Lozada

26 **Secretary:** To be elected by DCOM

27 **Lay Leader:** Ms. Carol Gibson

28  
29  
30  
31 **Members:**

32 Rev. Don Keller (Clergy-Elder)  
33 Mrs. Karen Fisher (Laity) Rev. Navin Satvra (C-Elder)  
34 Ms. Carol Gibson (Laity, CLM) Rev. Maryanne Ditter (C-Deacon)  
35 Darlene DiDomineck, (Laity, Deaconess) Ms. Jean Kershaw (Laity)  
36 Ms. Sandra Lozada (Laity, Lay Supply Pastor) Rev. Cristina J. Keller

37  
38  
39  
40 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

41 **Chairperson:** Rev. Jackie Stewart (C)

42 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III

43 **Lay Leader:** Mrs. Carol Gibson

44  
45 **Members:**

46 Rev. Jackie Stewart Ms. Denise Beecher  
47 Rev. John Brice Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck  
48 Rev. Cindy Brubaker Mrs. Karen Fisher  
49 Rev. Jeong Gyun Hong Mrs. Carol Gibson

01 **North District**

02  
03 **Rev. Hun Ju Lee, District Superintendent**  
04 **Mr. Dennis Booher & Ms. Patricia Wilson, District Lay Leaders**  
05

06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**  
08

09 **Chairperson:** Rev. Julian Mileski

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

11 **Members:**

12 **Class of 2026:**

13 Rev. Rose Marquardt, Clergy Rev. Kay Painter, Clergy Rev. Eric Yeakel, Clergy

14 **Class of 2027:**

15 Mr. Ken Bass, Laity Mr. Joe Ellenberger, Laity Rev. Julian Milewski, Clergy

16 **Class of 2028:**

17 Mr. Robert Shrepple, Laity Rev. Jack Murray, Clergy Ms. Deanna Gade, Laity  
18  
19  
20  
21

22 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)**

23 **Chairperson:** Rev. Rick Brown II

24 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

25 **Registrar:** Rev. Barbara Lee

26 **Secretary:** To be elected by DCOM

27 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Patricia Wilson & Mr. Dennis Booher

28 **Members:** Rev. Rick Brown II (C) Mrs. Judith Ehninger (L)  
29 Rev. Jennifer Miller (C) Ms. Patricia Wilson (L)  
30 Rev. Barbara Lee (C) Mr. Dennis Booher (L)  
31 Rev. Todd Glasmire (C)  
32  
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34  
35

36 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

37 **Chairperson:** Rev. David Felker (C)

38 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Hun Ju Lee

39 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Patricia Wilson & Mr. Dennis Booher

40 **Members:** Rev. David Felker Ms. Vianca Corazon  
41 Rev. Michelle Beissel Mr. Aaron Forney  
42 Rev. Kimberly Leskowich Ms. Sue Lawson  
43 Mr. Dennis Booher  
44 Ms. Christina Lewis  
45 Ms. Ann Tinner  
46 Mr. Jay Morgan  
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01 **South District**

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03 **Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman, District Superintendent**  
04 **Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty, District Lay Leaders**

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06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**

08  
09 **Co-Chairpersons:** Rev. Mary Jane Kirby & Ms. Gail Armstrong

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

11 **Members:**

12 **Class of 2026:**

13 Mr. Alvin Kingcade, Sr., Laity Rev. Mary Jane Kirby, Clergy Rev. Scott Johnson, Clergy

14 **Class of 2027:**

15 Mr. Richard Freeze, Laity Rev. Mark E. Beidman, Clergy Rev. James Harper, Sr., Laity

16 **Class of 2028:**

17 Ms. Gail Armstrong, Laity Mr. Delno Moyer, Laity Mr. Charlie Cooper, Laity

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23 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY**

24  
25 **Co-Chairpersons:** Rev. John Inghram & Rev. Tamie Scalise

26 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

27 **Registrar:** Rev. Joanne Miles (C-Deacon)

28 **Secretary:** Mr. Clinton Amoss

29 **Lay Leader:** Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty

30  
31 **Members:**

32 Rev. John Inghram Mr. Clinton Amoss  
33 Rev. Tamie Scalise Ms. Mila Lambert  
34 Rev. Joanne Miles Mr. Alvin Doeleh  
35 Rev. John Bletsch Ms. Jennifer Lafferty  
36 Ms. Frances Whittington

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39  
40 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**

41  
42 **Acting Chairperson:** Ms. Joan Lawson (L)

43 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Dr. Steven Pittman

44 **Lay Leaders:** Ms. Frances Whittington & Ms. Jennifer Lafferty

45 **Members:**

46 Rev. Suzette Douglass-Brown, Clergy Ms. Rebecca Bennington  
47 Rev. Carl Houston Ms. Jennifer Lafferty  
48 Rev. Mark Salvacion Ms. Dianna Maylen  
49 Ms. Barbara Phillips  
50 Mr. Glenn Wadel  
51 Ms. Maria de Angeles Vargas

01 **West District**

02  
03 **Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer, District Superintendent**  
04 **Ms. Sue Grimm Mattox, District Lay Leader**  
05

06  
07 **BOARD OF CHURCH LOCATION & BUILDING**  
08

09 **Chairperson:** Craig Lenhard (L)

10 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer

11 **Members:** Rev. Jim Anderman (C) Mr. John Spear (L)  
12 Rev. Kent Kroehler (C) Mr. Robert Stoner (L)  
13 Robert Mease (L)  
14

15  
16 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON ORDAINED MINISTRY (DCOM)**  
17

18 **Co-Chairpersons:** Rev. Kerry Leeper & Rev. Derrick Guterrez

19 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer

20 **Registrar:** Ms. Susan Kepner

21 **Secretary:** Rev. Deanna Geiter

22 **Lay Leader:** Susan Grimm Mattox

23 **Bi-Lingual (English/Spanish):** Rev. Bruny Martinez  
24

25 **Class of 2026 –**

26 Rev. Robb Faller (2023) - Clergy Rev. Derek Guterrez (2023) – Clergy, Co-Chair  
27 Rev. Deanna Geiter (2020) Clergy Ms. Sue Kepner (2020) - Lay

28 **Class of 2027 –**

29 Rev. Kerry Leeper (2024) – Clergy, Co-Chair, BOOM Representative  
30 Rev. John Laughlin (2024) – Clergy Rev. Bruny Martinez (2024) – Clergy  
31 Ms. Heidi Bianco (2024), Lay Ms. Lynn McCord (2024), Lay  
32

33 **Class of 2028 –**

34 Rev. Jeff Kapp (2025), Clergy Rev. Correen Russo (2025), Clergy  
35

36 **DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON SUPERINTENDENCY**  
37

38 **Chairperson:** Rev. David T. Ryan (C)

39 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer

40 **Lay Leader:** Susan Grimm Mattox

41 **Members:** Mr. Blaine Wenger (L)  
42 David Woolverton (C) Cynthia Forry (L)  
43

44 **WEST DISTRICT RESOURCE TEAM**  
45

46 **Co-Chairpersons:** Jason Perkowski and Sue Grimm-Mattox

47 **Lay Leader:** Susan Grimm Mattox

48 **Ex Officio:** Rev. Jennifer Freymoyer

49 **Members:**  
50  
51 Mrs. Apryl Miller (L) Mrs. Barbara Skarbowski (L)  
52 Ms. Lisa Palmquist (L) Mr. Joseph Skarbowski (L)  
53 Rev. David T. Ryan (C) Mr. Robert Stoner (L)  
54

# RESOLUTION #2025-07: WELLTOWER INC. AND CARSON SIMPSON FARM

01 **Relating to the proposed renegotiation and extension of land lease between Welltower Inc. and**  
02 **Carson Simpson Farm Christian Center**

03

04 **WHEREAS** Carson Simpson Farm’s mission is to serve the underprivileged children of Philadelphia,  
05 through our Partners Equipping All for Eternity (PEACE)

06

07 **AND WHEREAS** Carson Simpson Farms currently maintains a 100-year lease with Welltower Real estate  
08 LLC originating from 1993

09

10 **AND WHEREAS** Welltower Inc. has requested a new revised 100-year lease, changing the original court  
11 authorized lease agreement

12

13 **AND WHEREAS** Carson Simpsons deed prohibits any mortgages, liens, or leases of any kind, without  
14 court approval

15

16 **AND WHEREAS** Metro Ministries Incorporated and Camping Retreat Ministry board must both agree to  
17 any decisions in relation to real estate

18

19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference authorize Carson  
20 Simpson Farm, through a collective effort between the Metro Ministries Incorporated and Camping  
21 Retreat Ministry Board, engage in negotiations with the leadership of Welltower and sub tenant Tryco,  
22 that may renegotiate an existing 100-year lease for a new 100-year lease. This resolution must meet the  
23 following additional requirements,

24

25 1. Any proposed agreement is met with approval by both Metro Ministries and the Camping Retreat  
26 Ministry boards, as per the Business Management Agreement of 1993.

27

28 2. The proposed agreement is successfully adjudicated by an orphan’s court judge, in order to make any  
29 allowances to the original deed.

30

31 **FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in the event that no revision or agreement can be reached  
32 between all aforementioned parties, that the original lease be followed as written.

33

## 34 **Rationale:**

35 Carson Simpson Farm Christian Center currently holds two 100 year ground leases. One larger acreage  
36 lease with Gloria Dei Farms and one smaller lease with Welltower Inc. Welltower, in collaboration with  
37 their current tenant, Tryco, is seeking a new lease to replace the existing lease for 100 years. This new  
38 lease would require the approval of Metro Ministries Inc. (Metro) and the Camp and Retreat Ministry  
39 board (CRM) as well as orphans court. A new lease would allow the both CRM and Metro to reword  
40 the lease, removing the ambiguity of certain aspects of the current lease, allowing for more intentional  
41 rental procedures and penalties, and would allow for rent increases to be calculated in a more equitable  
42 fashion, given todays economic climate. The current lease income is well below market value so this  
43 presents an opportunity to revise these terms at the bequest of the current lease holder. It is important  
44 to note that under the current lease, Metro and CRM have the right of first refusal, so we are not  
45 required to proceed with a new lease.

46

47 **Presented by Robert Johnson and Jared Stoltzfus**

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# RESOLUTION #2025-08: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

01 **Resolution Regarding Equitable Compensation Recommendation for 2026**

02

03 **Presented by the Commission on Equitable Compensation**

04

05 **WHEREAS**, it is a mandate of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support clergy serving as  
06 pastors in the charges of the Annual Conference by recommending conference standards for pastoral  
07 support (§1624.2(a), 2024 *Discipline*), and

08

09 **WHEREAS**, the Commission is charged with annually recommending to the Annual Conference a  
10 schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors or those clergy members of the annual  
11 conference appointed less than full-time to a local church, subject to such rules and regulations as the  
12 conference may adopt (§1624.3, 2024 *Discipline*), and

13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks to address the concerns of clergy compensation and recognize the  
15 economic difficulties encountered by churches,

16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Commission seeks also to address the financial needs of clergy, we evaluate the realities  
18 of the current financial environment, including the COLA (Cost of living Adjustment) established by the  
19 Social Security Administration, and rising inflation,

20

21 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Annual Conference establish minimum salaries reflecting a 2.5%  
22 increase for 2026. The schedule of minimum base salaries for persons under appointment in the local  
23 church for 2026 shall be as follows:

24

25 a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection \$50,217

26

27 b) Provisional Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments \$47,597

28

29 c) Associate Members \$46,599

30

31 d) Full-Time Local Pastors \$44,109

32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to arrive at the minimum base salary for each pastor, the appropriate  
34 base salary listed above shall be increased by 1% for each year of service up to a maximum of 20  
35 years. Years of service are determined by the number of full-time years (or a combination of part-time  
36 equivalent years) **fully completed** prior to January 1, 2026; and

37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each church or charge, in recommending increases, consider increases  
39 above the minimum base salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note  
40 of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security as  
41 self-employed persons, family needs, and payment of health insurance; and

42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any amount provided as a housing allowance is not to be considered part  
44 of the minimum base salary as set forth in this resolution (§1252.4(e), 2024 *Discipline*); and

45

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any change in clergy minimum base salaries related to a change of clergy  
47 status through ordination, commissioning, or licensing in 2026 will become effective as of January 1,  
48 2027. Pastors receiving their first appointment are at level 0, and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all full-time pastors shall have an accountable reimbursement expense  
51 line item in the church budget to cover mileage for pastoral work, continuing education, and other  
52 professional ministerial expenses as allowed by the IRS. This reimbursable amount shall be a minimum  
53 of \$2,500. For churches that are receiving Equitable Compensation support, their accountable  
54 reimbursement expense line should not exceed \$2,500, and

01 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-  
02 time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified as soon as possible and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet  
03 (§623.1, 2024 Discipline), and  
04

05 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that churches may apply to the Commission for a grant to assist the church in  
06 paying the pastor an equitable salary following the application process promulgated by the Commission.  
07 If a church is seeking a grant to pay the pastor more than the minimum specified by this resolution the  
08 measures of church vitality (worship attendance, making disciples, small group attendance, community  
09 outreach, and missional giving) will be considered, and  
10

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that churches that receive Equitable Compensation Grants in one year and  
12 apply again in the subsequent year are expected to request 25% less than in the prior year, and  
13

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that membership on the Commission shall include a representative number  
15 of persons of color to ensure that the perspective of persons of color of the Eastern Pennsylvania  
16 Conference be considered. This is in keeping with the Conference goal of Ending the Sin of Racism and its  
17 commitment to equity and economic justice.  
18

19 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** David Koch, Chair, Commission on Equitable  
20 Compensation  
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# RESOLUTION #2025-09: ADOPTION AGREEMENT OF THE 2026 CRSP

01 **Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement of the Compass Plan for the Year 2026**

02

03 **Presented by Mr. Alvin Kingcade, Interim President Board of Benefits**

04

05 **WHEREAS**, we as an Annual Conference appreciate our clergy and seek to provide for their well-being  
06 while under appointment and in retirement; and

07

08 **WHEREAS**, at General Conference 2020 (held in 2024) a new Retirement Plan was introduced and  
09 approved for clergy under appointment; and

10

11 **WHEREAS** the mission Board of Benefits is to provide for and contribute to the support, relief, assistance  
12 and pensioning of those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the ministry of our Lord and Savior  
13 Jesus Christ as members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and its  
14 Local Charges. These individuals include clergy and their families, church workers, and employees of the  
15 Annual Conference. The Board of Benefits is committed to meeting its mission by:

16

17 • Administering the pension benefits to retired clergy within the guidelines of The Book of Discipline and  
18 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits;

19

20 • Maintaining health and life disability insurance to provide optimal protection for the participants at a  
21 reasonable cost;

22

23 • The responsible investing of monies necessary to meet the requirements of the pension and benefit  
24 funds, plans and programs of the Annual Conference;

25

26 • Providing special grants to meet the basic daily needs of eligible individuals, their families and  
27 survivors; and;

28

29 • Preparing individuals for retirement by informing them of strategies and opportunities available in the  
30 management of their savings, income and pensions.

31

32 **THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED that the Adoption Agreement for the Compass Plan shall apply to the  
33 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and shall be effective as of January 1, 2026. The Compass Plan  
34 shall be the retirement plan for the clergy persons under Episcopal appointment, including deacons and  
35 members of other denominations serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible  
36 unit, conference-controlled entity, including clergy on medical leave receiving Comprehensive Protection  
37 Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in accordance to the plan  
38 adoption agreement beginning on January 1, 2026. Clergy persons on medical leave and not receiving  
39 Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in Compass, and

40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that on January 1, 2026 the default contribution rate for automatic enrollment  
42 for clergy will be 4% of retirement plan compensation. The church will match 4% of clergy contributions,  
43 and if clergy do not reach the 4% contribution, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each January 1 going  
44 forward the default contribution rate for clergy will automatically escalate 1% annually to reach 10% of  
45 retirement plan compensation, and,

46

47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that churches are encouraged to make additional payments into clergy's  
48 Personal Investment Plan held at Wespath, and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the church will be billed the matching contribution beginning January 1 at  
51 the full default percentage. If the clergy person does not make the necessary contributions to receive the  
52 full match the moneys will be credited to the local church, and

53

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the SECURE 2.0 Act permits retirement plans to match student loan

01 payments. Compass will provide matching contributions on qualified student loan payments made by  
02 clergy at the same rate or escalated rate as if such payments had been participant contributions to the  
03 plan. To receive this match, clergy must certify to their conference annually how much they made in  
04 student loan payments for that year. The annual Clergy Compensation and Expense Report will include a  
05 line for Student Loan Repayment commitments from clergy.

06  
07 NOTE--- the compensation form currently uses Pension Plan for their language. This needs to change.  
08 Retirement Plan Compensation needs to be used to be accurate.

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# RESOLUTION #2025-10: MINISTERIAL PENSION RATE FOR PRE-82

01 **Pertaining to the Ministerial Pension Rate for Pre-82**

02

03 **Presented by Mr. Alvin Kingcade, Interim President Board of Benefits**

04

05 **WHEREAS** the mission Board of Benefits is to provide for and contribute to the support, relief, assistance  
06 and pensioning of those individuals who have dedicated their lives to the ministry of our Lord and Savior  
07 Jesus Christ as members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and its  
08 Local Charges.

09

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that on January 1, 2026, the ministerial pension rate for past service before January  
11 1, 1982, shall be set at \$537.00, and the personal contributor's annuity derived from pre- 1982  
12 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the participant's formula benefit. (Annual benefit is  
13 equal to Years of Service pre-82 x Past Service rate), and

14

15 **FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant's formula  
16 benefit, and

17

18 **AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Benefits is authorized to make annual deposits at  
19 the end of the calendar year as required by the Wespath Benefits and Investments for the purpose of  
20 funding for past service before January 1, 1982.

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# RESOLUTION #2025-11: RENTAL-HOUSING ALLOWANCES

01 **Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons**

02

03 **Presented by** Mr. Alvin Kingcade, Interim President Board of Benefits

04

05 **WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of  
06 which this Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference is part, has in the past functioned and continues to  
07 function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who  
08 were or are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

09

10 **WHEREAS** the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons  
11 with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation.

12

13 **WHEREAS** pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be  
14 deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous  
15 active service;

16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the  
18 appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons  
19 who are or were members of this Conference.

20

21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments  
22 received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline (2020/24 edition)* of The United Methodist  
23 Church (“the *Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespath during the year 2026 by each  
24 retired or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and  
25 hereby is designed as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

26

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pension and disability payments to which this rental/housing  
28 allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized  
29 under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity  
30 company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or  
31 fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this  
32 Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church,  
33 annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former  
34 denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson  
35 to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make  
36 contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled  
37 Clergyperson’s pension or disability as part of their gross compensation.

38

39 **NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in  
40 any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and  
41 regulations thereunder to the least of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by  
42 the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the  
43 foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide  
44 a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances  
45 (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

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# RESOLUTION #2025-12: ADVANCE SPECIAL APPLICATIONS

01 **RESOLUTION to the 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION**

02 **Resolution relating to Advance Special Applications**

03 **Presented by Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Global Ministries Team**

04

05 **WHEREAS**, the Conference Advance Special is a program of ministry which can seek funds from a local  
06 church that keeps its financial commitments to the Conference and General Church in full in the previous  
07 year’s budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the church through designated  
08 giving; and

09

10 **WHEREAS**, a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in need of  
11 support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of the mission  
12 of the church; and

13

14 **WHEREAS**, practicality indicates that a list of conference advance specials be available as soon as  
15 possible after they are approved;

16

17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following programs and ministries of the annual conference  
18 having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials  
19 for the year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

20

21 **Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Barbara Drake, Conference, Secretary of Global  
22 Ministries.

23

24 **CENTER-PHILADELPHIA @ ARCH STREET UMC & GRACE CAFÉ .....\$9,000**

25 Applicant: Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck & Natalie Filipov

26 55 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

27 215-568-6250 darlene@archstreetumc.org

28

29 The Center-Philadelphia is a day-time drop-in shelter and social service provider for adults experiencing  
30 homelessness in Center City, Philadelphia. Incorporated as an independent 501 (c)(3) organization in  
31 2018, the Center provides guests with warm meals prepared in-house; a clothing closet; shower and  
32 laundry services; socks, underwear, and hygiene supplies; computer access, device charging, and mail  
33 pick-up; case management and housing assessments; and a clean, calm space to relax, socialize, and  
34 enjoy shelter from the elements. Up to 50 individuals per day benefit from the services, and the drop-in  
35 shelter received 8177 guests over the past 12 months. On Sunday evenings, Center staff and volunteers  
36 prepare and serve a home-cooked, nutritionally balanced meal for community members enduring  
37 poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity. The community meal, known as Grace Café, attracts 70 –  
38 90 individuals per week. Between Grace Café and daytime services, the Center served 9543 meals in  
39 2023. The Center also coordinates a nurse-led wellness space offering blood pressure and blood sugar  
40 screenings, weight and vision checks, food baths, wound care, harm reduction supplies, vaccinations,  
41 coordination of care and assistance in maneuvering area healthcare systems. There were 245 free  
42 wellness visits in 2023. The Center structures its programming around accessibility. No identification or  
43 proof of incomes is required to access Center services, which are open to all persons regardless of race,  
44 sex, ethnic background, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, immigration status,  
45 or spiritual tradition. The Board of Directors is made up of members of Arch Street United Methodist  
46 Church and EPA UMC clergy. The executive director is a UMC Deaconess and its programming is located  
47 within Arch Street UMC.

48

49 **COKESBURY SUMMER READING AND LUNCH PROGRAM .....\$3,000**

50 Applicant: Sandra M. Cislo

51 307 Market Street, Marcus Hook, PA 19061

52 610-416-5112. smcislo@yahoo.com

53

54 This is a ministry of Cokesbury UMC, which provides FREE healthy lunch for 3-4 weeks on Monday-

01 Thursday for pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children who live in the high poverty areas of Marcus Hook, Trainer,  
02 and Lower Chichester and are most at-risk for academic failure. Without the benefit of free school  
03 breakfast and lunch during the summer, children who are food insecure go hungry. Recognizing that  
04 education can be the key to unlocking the chains of poverty, Cokesbury UMC seeks to provide needed  
05 educational and nutritional support for the at-risk children of their community. Participants receive free  
06 books to start or expand home libraries, and bookbags with school supplies at the end of the program.

07  
08 **LIBERIA EDUCATION PROJECT ..... \$7,800**

09 Applicant: Dennis L. Fisher, Board of Directors Chairperson  
10 Liberia Education Project c/o Somerton United Methodist Church  
11 13073 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116  
12 215-673-2745 (o), 215-356-3193 (c), 215-860-5577 (h) dkfisher@comcast.net

13  
14 The Liberia Education Project (LEP) is a non-profit corporation bringing educational opportunities to the  
15 people of Liberia, West Africa, especially the disadvantaged boys and girls of rural areas. The Board of  
16 Directors is composed of members of Somerton UMC, primarily. LEP has been supported by other EPA  
17 congregations, including Somerton, St. John’s Ivyland, and First UMC of Germantown. The volunteer  
18 Executive Director is Jacob Madehdou, from Liberia, who attends Somerton UMC. Activities since 2009  
19 include renovating a rural church into a one-room school, the Ghenwein Mission School, and registering  
20 it with the government; constructing 6 classrooms and a multipurpose building; providing classroom  
21 furniture, books and school supplies; upgrading teacher skills through training courses and government  
22 certification; financially supporting teachers and support staff; drilling a deep water well; building a  
23 sanitary bathroom; constructing an outdoor kitchen; hiring an agriculturalist to plant a Palm orchard  
24 and start a chicken program; growing cabbage, casava, peppers, okra and more to feed students and sell  
25 locally; and promoting self-sufficiency through education, agriculture, small-business and employment.  
26 Today the school has nearly 200 children registered from pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2024, 16 students  
27 graduated from 6<sup>th</sup> grade, mostly girls! The \$7800 we hope to raise will be a matching gift of six months  
28 of teacher pay.

29  
30 **LIGHT OF MARNIE ..... \$10,000**

31 Applicants: Jennifer and John Lafferty  
32 315 Municipal Drive, Thorndale, PA 19372  
33 John: 610-470-1369 JohnL@lightofmarnie.org.  
34 Jennifer: 610-766-0944 JenL@lightofmarnie.org

35  
36 Light of Marnie supports SHALOCA Christian Academy, an elementary school in Lower Johnsonville,  
37 Liberia, West Africa. The school was founded by Rev. James Coleman when he was serving in Liberia. Due  
38 to his untimely passing in 2023, his daughter, Jaminie, is now in charge of the school. She is a citizen of  
39 Liberia and a nursing school graduate, who sees the potential for adding a clinic at the school for the  
40 community. Light of Marnie has a Board of Directors in the USA which does fund-raising, and SHALOCA  
41 has a Board of Directors in Liberia with United Methodist members in both locations.

42  
43 In 2022, Light of Marnie partnered with Eddystone United Methodist Church to refurbish its unoccupied  
44 parsonage, which is now being used to house Ukrainian refugees. Light of Marnie’s partnership with  
45 Eddystone UMC has created community involvement with the Eddystone Borough, local businesses, and  
46 other churches, organizations, and individuals. Jennifer and John Lafferty are Certified Lay Ministers,  
47 with John serving as the pastor assigned to Eddystone UMC, and Jennifer serving as South District Co-Lay  
48 Leader and member of the Global Ministries Team.

49  
50 **LUMINA ..... \$10,000**

51 Applicant: Correen Russo, Executive Director  
52 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602  
53 717-394-8412 (office), 717-808-8633 (cell), correen.lumina@gmail.com

54

01 LUMINA serves nearly 1,000 economically disadvantaged individuals in the Lancaster/Lebanon area  
02 annually with the help of volunteers, financial support, and donations of food and clothing from United  
03 Methodist churches. LUMINA shares God’s love with neighbors in need through the following programs:  
04

05 Children’s Ministries: cost-free discipleship programs, summer day camp, field trips, and camp  
06 scholarships for underserved city children.  
07

08 Clothing: New winter coats, pajamas, shoes, socks, and other clothing for children in need.  
09

10 Nutrition/Cooking Education: free classes, food, and kitchen tools for low- income adults with vulnerable  
11 dependents, to improve their health and quality of life (currently working with migrant farm workers).  
12

13 Food Box Distribution: providing over 9400 lbs. of food and New Testaments each month at no cost to  
14 neighbors who are food insecure.  
15

16 Tool Awards – providing over \$200 in new construction tools to each graduating high school senior  
17 student doing a building trades internship with Manifest.  
18

19 Manifest Urban Alliance – partnering with Lancaster churches committed to addressing emergent issues  
20 of those experiencing or in danger of experiencing homelessness.  
21

22 **SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MINISTRIES, INC. .... \$8,000**

23 Applicant: Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell

24 P.O. Box 724 Southeastern PA 19399, 610-873-3988 (O), 610-613-6253 (C) SpiritualRM@aol.com  
25

26 This ministry is an unofficial Approved Agency of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United  
27 Methodist Church, providing spiritual direction, retreats, and seminars for over 30 years. Financial  
28 donations are used for scholarships to churches, groups, and individuals desiring to deepen their  
29 relationship with God in Jesus Christ and overcome racism, poverty, and injustice which are destructive  
30 to relationships with God, others, and self. During the last 4 years with the backlash of COVID, and  
31 the changes in our denomination, more clergy and laity are seeking spiritual direction to nourish their  
32 personal relationship with God, so they may be fuller vessels for others during these ongoing difficult  
33 times. Members of the conference clergy and laity make up the board of directors.  
34

35 **WESLEY FOUNDATION OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA..... \$10,000**

36 Applicant: Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito

37 3225 Arch Street, Office 012B, Philadelphia, PA 19014, 484-685-6347

38 Mailing address: 980 Madison Ave., Norristown, PA 19403

39 opendoordrexel@gmail.com  
40

41 The Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia serves the Drexel University campus and community  
42 and directly serves students through the Open Door Christian Community student organization,  
43 serving alongside students, faculty, and staff to meet physical and spiritual needs on campus and in  
44 the community. Because many college students face food insecurity, a free weekly healthy hot meal  
45 is provided to anyone on campus who is in need. The 34 weekly meals offer a space for community  
46 building, especially among the international students who may feel isolated from the broader campus  
47 community. In 2024, \$2,000 in winter break gift cards were given to 20 students who were unable to  
48 go home during the break, so they would have access to food. Students are invited to participate in  
49 community service, such as stuffing 100 backpacks with hygiene supplies for The Center-Philadelphia at  
50 Arch St. UMC. Faith formation is offered through individual discipleship and the Voices of Faith in Social  
51 Justice Action conversation series. We empower students to take leadership roles through internships  
52 and the management of these ministries, expanding their reach beyond the hours the campus chaplain  
53 is available. We are excited to launch our website in 2025 and to collaborate with local congregations.  
54 Our prayer is that the collaborations will provide more faith formation opportunities through small

01 groups and worship services, as well as to additional chaplains and resources.

02

03 **Note:** Advance Special status allows fundraising letters to be sent to churches of EPC but does not  
04 guarantee that funding will be provided. Church treasurers are advised to remit contributions through  
05 the monthly remittance. Funds will then be forwarded to the approved Conference Advance Special.

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# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## United Methodist Church General Conference - 2024 proposed Constitutional Amendments

The 2024 General Conference passed four proposed amendments to the United Methodist Constitution. These amendments only become official once they are ratified by a two-third affirmative vote of the cumulative members of the annual conferences.

Among the items of business that must be considered during our annual conference are the proposed constitutional amendments for ratification. There are four (4) of them based on the particular actions of the 2020/2024 General Conference. They are:

1. World Regionalization
2. Ratification
3. Racial Justice
4. Clergy Members

The proposed constitutional amendments are provided to inform lay and clergy members of the annual conference in preparation for the ratification vote. The proposed legislation is included in the Pre-Conference Workbook and on the EPA webpage.

Resources for the proposed constitutional amendments can be found here: [HTTPS://WWW.RESOURCEUMC.ORG/EN/PARTNERS/CONNECTIONAL-TABLE/HOME/RESOURCES/LEGISLATION/REGIONALIZATION-LEGISLATION](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/partners/connectional-table/home/resources/legislation/regionalization-legislation)

EPA is preparing to conduct a vote on the proposed constitutional amendments in accordance with the guidelines in the 2020-2024 Book of Discipline ¶1602.

General information of note:

- A process that assures equity, accessibility, and count accuracy will be implemented.
- Each item will be handled as four (4) separate ballots/votes.
- Each of the constitutional amendments may be debated but may not be amended.
- All members of the annual conference are able to provide voice.
- Eligible voting members of the proposed constitutional amendments include elders and deacons in full connection, and lay members of the EPA annual conference.
- The numbers of persons voting “yes” and the number of persons voting “no” will be recorded. The annual conference will not be informed of the outcome of the vote to prevent the influence of voting outcomes of later voting annual conferences.
- Once the vote is taken, it will be confidentially provided to the conference secretary. The vote results will be recorded on a certificate of action and forwarded to the General Conference.
- The vote for every annual conference will be submitted and remain confidential until all annual conferences have voted. The cumulative voting results will be announced on November 7, 2025. The Bishop of each conference will determine whether to share the vote results of their annual conference after November 7, 2025.

We look forward to providing additional information and resources as they become available.

Rev. Joong Hyuck Kim  
Conference Secretary,  
Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

# Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference

To be canvassed for ratification by the Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

*[The following proposed amendments to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church were approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference and must now be voted upon by the members of the annual conferences. It is required that each one must pass with an aggregate 2/3 approval from all voting members as canvassed by the Council of Bishops. The proposed changes are indicated by strike-through for deletions and underscore for additions.]*

*This document is a DRAFT to be utilized as an initial informational and educational resource. The final document is subject to editing and verification.]*

Ratification  
Ballot #1

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|                     |                  |                |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Calendar Item 22    | Approved 586-164 | April 25, 2024 |
| Committee Item ST29 | Approved 29-0    | April 22, 2024 |
| Petition 21039      |                  |                |

[Editorial Note: Numbering of paragraphs will be subject to the final editing of The Book of Discipline 2020/2024. The proposed changes in this calendar item are included for internal reference. Due to the length and complexity of this calendar item, the text and formatting from the Daily Christian Advocate is being used for context.]

**AMEND ¶¶ 9, (which shall be renumbered ¶ 10), 10 (which shall be renumbered ¶ 9), 15, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 46, 49, 50, 52, 56, 61 and add new 13 as follows:**

**¶ ~~10~~ 9. ~~Article III~~ Article II.** - There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America and, if necessary, provisional ~~central~~ regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

**¶ ~~9~~ 10. ~~Article II~~ Article III.** - There shall ~~may~~ be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are

hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

(NEW - Renumber subsequent paragraphs) ¶ 13. *Article VI.*– The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ 15. *Article III.* – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, ~~jurisdictional~~, and ~~central~~ regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and

further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. *Article IV.*- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, and of central conferences, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by ~~central~~ regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

¶ 23. *Article I.*-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 24. *Article II.* - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 25. *Article III.* - The ~~General Conferences~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ 26. *Article IV.* - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the ~~Council~~ College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ 27. *Article V.* - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the ~~General Conference~~ regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

#### **Section V. ~~Central~~ Regional Conferences**

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be ~~central~~ regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church outside the United States of America with such powers, duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

~~The number and boundaries of the central conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of central conferences. The central conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.~~

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ **29. Article II.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ **30. Article III.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective ~~central~~ regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference. ~~The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the Uniting Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective central conferences, or in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.~~

¶ **31. Article IV.**– The ~~central~~ regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2 . In regional conferences without jurisdictions, ¶to elect the bishops for the respective ~~central~~ regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to

their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such ~~central~~ regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 ~~within their respective areas~~.

5. To ~~make such~~ legislate and make rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including ~~such~~ changes and adaptations of the ~~General Discipline~~ as follows, as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.

b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.

d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second



Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.

e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the ~~central~~ regional conference *Discipline* enacted by the ~~central~~ regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

~~To~~A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a ~~traveling preacher~~ clergy or lay member of ~~that central~~ the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

¶ **32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall

consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the ~~central~~ regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ **33. Article II.**-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy

and lay delegates to the General ~~Conference~~ and their ~~respective regional-jurisdictional or central~~ conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ **34. Article III.**-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its ~~jurisdictional or central~~ respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference. The additional delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to

the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional and jurisdictional or central conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, and jurisdictional or central conferences as well as jurisdictional conference if its

regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and ~~jurisdictional or central~~ regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

[DELETE ¶ 38 and ¶ 39 and renumber all of the articles within its section and renumber all subsequent paragraphs of the Constitution.]

~~¶ 38. *Article II.*—The work of the Church outside the United States of America may be formed into central regional conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.~~

~~¶ 39. *Article III.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the jurisdictional conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences of each of the jurisdictional conferences involved.~~

¶ 40 *Article IVII.*— The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions. ~~jurisdictional conferences in the United States of America and by the central conferences outside the United States of America according to the provisions under the respective powers and pursuant to the respective structures of the jurisdictional and the central conferences.~~ The authority of regional and jurisdictional and central

conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ 46. *Article II.*-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by ~~the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central~~ regional conference for those elected by such ~~central conference~~, provided that episcopal elections in ~~central regional~~ conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of ~~the central~~ such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ 48. *Article IV.*-The bishops of each ~~jurisdictional and central conference~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ 49. *Article V.*-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in ~~the jurisdictional or central conferences~~ their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless

that bishop shall have specifically consented. (3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that ~~jurisdiction or central~~ regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ 50. *Article VI.* - ~~The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.~~

~~The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bBishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bBishops elected by a~~

~~central regional conference without jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church~~ shall have such tenure as the ~~central regional~~ conference electing ~~him~~ them shall have determined.

The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, ~~jurisdictional conference~~ shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to ~~the~~ its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, ~~at conference if a region has jurisdictions,~~ its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the ~~jurisdictional~~ respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional ~~jurisdictional and central~~ conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~



conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, ~~or regional, or jurisdictional or central~~ conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional ~~or a central~~ conference.

...

¶ **61. Article III.** - A regional or jurisdictional ~~or central~~ conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

**[If ratified, the paragraphs would read as follows:]**

¶ **9. Article II.** - There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church and, if necessary, provisional regional conferences, all with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no regional or jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical division.

¶ 10. *Article III.* - There may be jurisdictional conferences for the work of the Church, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, provided that in The United Methodist Church there shall be no jurisdictional conference based on any ground other than geographical and regional division.

¶ 13. *Article VI.*— The General Conference, regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and annual conferences shall have autonomy of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution, provided that any legislation enacted within the respective powers of a conference but overlapping with the powers of another shall not be rendered invalid, unless its purpose and substance are beyond the authority of the enacting body.

¶ 15. *Article III.* – The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General and regional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the regional conference.

In a regional conference with jurisdictions, the regional conference shall fix the ratio of representation in its jurisdictional conferences from the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and the provisional annual conferences, computed on a two-factor basis: (1) the number of clergy members of the annual conference and the missionary conference, and (2) the number of professing members in the annual conference and the missionary conference, provided that each annual conference, missionary conference, or provisional annual conference

shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate in the jurisdictional conference and further provided that all general and regional conference delegates will be members of their respective jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 16. *Article IV.*- The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and in the exercise thereof shall have authority as follows:

...

16.3. To define and fix the powers and duties of regional conferences, jurisdictional conferences, annual conferences, provisional annual conferences, missionary conferences and missions, district conferences, charge conferences, and congregational meetings.

16.4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the worldwide Church.

...

16.10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the jurisdictional conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by regional conferences without jurisdictions.

...

16.12. To change the number and the boundaries of regional conferences, and to change the number and the boundaries of jurisdictional conferences upon the consent of a majority of the annual conferences in each jurisdictional conference involved.

...

16.17. To legislate what is non-adaptable for regional conferences by a 60% majority vote, while respecting the powers given to regional conferences according to ¶31.5.

¶ 23. *Article I.*-The jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the annual conferences and missionary conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the regional conference where jurisdictions exist, provided that no jurisdictional conference shall have fewer than 100 delegates. The missionary conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purpose of this article.

¶ 24. *Article II.* - All jurisdictional conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the annual conferences and missionary conferences in the General Conference and the regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall be the same for all jurisdictional conferences.

¶ 25. *Article III.* - The regional conference where jurisdictions exist shall fix the basis of representation in the jurisdictional conferences, provided that the jurisdictional conferences shall be composed of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates to be elected by the annual conferences, the missionary conferences and the provisional annual conferences.

¶ 26. *Article IV.* - Each jurisdictional conference shall meet at the time determined by the College of Bishops of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist or its delegated committee, each jurisdictional conference convening on the same date as the others and at a place selected by the jurisdictional committee on entertainment, appointed by its respective College of Bishops unless such a committee has been appointed by the preceding jurisdictional conference.

¶ 27. *Article V.* - The jurisdictional conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conferences:

...

4. To determine the boundaries of their annual conferences, provided that there shall be no annual conference with a membership of fewer than fifty clergy in full connection, except by the consent of the regional conference where jurisdictions exist.

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the Church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference and in the regional conferences.

6. To appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

## **Section V. Regional Conferences**

¶ 28. *Article I.*— There shall be regional conferences for the work of the worldwide Church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth, to be exercised equitably across the regional conferences, subject to limits fixed by the Constitution.

1. Initially, the number and boundaries of the regional conferences shall be as follows:

a) There shall be a regional conference for the work of the Church in the United States of America that includes all of the areas that comprise the jurisdictional conferences identified in Division Two, Section VII, ¶ 37.

b) The central conferences or provisional central conferences which existed prior to the postponed 2020 General Conference shall become regional or provisional regional conferences.

2. The General Conference shall have the authority to change the number and boundaries of regional conferences and provisional regional conferences.

¶ 29. *Article II.*— The regional conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be clergy and lay in equal numbers.

¶ 30. *Article III.*— The regional conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective regional conferences or by commissions appointed by them or by the General Conference.

¶ 31. *Article IV.*— The regional conferences shall have the following powers and duties as the special conditions and the mission of the Church in the area require, subject to the limits fixed by the Constitution, and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, social-concern, and benevolent interests and institutions of the Church within their own boundaries.

2 . In regional conferences without jurisdictions, to elect the bishops for the respective regional conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference; to fix the tenure of their bishops, the episcopal areas and residences, and to assign the bishops who are to reside in the respective regional conference to their areas; and to cooperate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such regional conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.

4. To determine the number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences in accordance with ¶ 40 .

5. To legislate rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries including changes and adaptations of the general *Discipline* as follows, while upholding the Constitution and the decisions of General Conference in accordance with ¶ 16.17:

- a) To establish and publish a regional *Discipline* with legislation and provisions pertaining to the regional, annual, district, and charge conferences within its boundaries, including qualifications and educational requirements of clergy and specialized lay ministries, and forms of organization according to the laws of the country or countries.
- b) To set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.
- c) To acknowledge annual conferences as the basic bodies of the church (¶ 33) voting on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and therefore considering the requirements set forth in a regional *Discipline* regarding specialized lay ministry and license, ordination, or conference membership, as minimum requirements.
- d) To establish and publish a regional hymnal and ritual of the Church, including ecclesial acts of marriage and burial, subject to the limitations of the first and second Restrictive Rules, but authorizing to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recognize the governments of the country or countries.
- e) To allow the annual conferences to adopt structures adequate to their mission while upholding mandated structures.

When adapting the investigative and trial process, each Regional Book of Discipline shall guarantee confidentiality, protections of the accused, protection of the accusers along with the ability to adapt the process based on the legal system of each country.

6. To appoint a judicial court to determine legal questions arising from the rules, regulations, and such revised, adapted, or new sections of the regional *Discipline* enacted by the regional conference.

7. To adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its clergy, including bishops, and lay members of the Church and to provide the necessary means and methods of implementing the said rules; provided, however, that the ordained ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a clergy committee, and lay members of the Church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of lay members; and to make changes in the chargeable offenses and their penalties.

A regional conference or a jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall appoint a committee on appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a clergy or lay member of the respective conference from the decision of a committee on trial.

¶ **32. Article I.**— The annual conference shall be composed of clergy and lay members. The clergy membership shall consist of deacons and elders in full connection, provisional members, associate members, and local pastors under appointment. The lay membership shall consist of professing lay members elected by each charge, the diaconal ministers, the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the annual conference, the conference president of United Methodist Women, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, the conference director of Lay Servant Ministries, conference secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college student organization, and one



young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference. In the annual conferences of the regional conferences outside the USA, the four-year participation and the two-year membership requirements may be waived by the annual conference for young persons under thirty (30) years of age. Such persons must be professing members of The United Methodist Church and active participants at the time of election. Each charge served by more than one clergy shall be entitled to as many lay members as there are clergy members. The lay members shall have been for the two years next preceding their election members of The United Methodist Church and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election.

If the lay membership should number less than the clergy members of the annual conference, the annual conference shall, by its own formula, provide for the election of additional lay members to equalize lay and clergy membership of the annual conference.

¶ 33. *Article II.*-The annual conference is the basic body in the Church and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and their respective regional conferences, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its clergy members, and on the ordination of clergy and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of clergy except that the lay members of the conference board of ordained ministry and the committee on investigation may vote on matters of ordination, character, and

conference relations of clergy, with the further exception that lay members of the district committee on ordained ministry be full participating members of the district committee on ordained ministry with vote. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.

¶ 34. *Article III.*-The annual conference shall elect clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, in the manner provided in this section, Articles IV and V. Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the regional conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the regional conference. The additional delegates to the regional conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The annual conference shall also elect reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conference as it may deem desirable. These reserve clergy and lay delegates to the regional conferences may act as reserve delegates to the General Conference when it is evident that not enough reserve delegates are in attendance at the General Conference.

In regional conferences with jurisdictions, all general and regional conference delegates shall be delegates to the jurisdictional conference. Whenever possible, reserve delegates to the regional conference shall also serve in order of election as delegates to the jurisdictional conference, with any reserve delegates who cannot be seated as jurisdictional delegates becoming reserve delegates to the jurisdictional conference. As needed, additional delegates shall

be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the jurisdictional conference. The annual conference may also elect additional reserve clergy and lay delegates to the jurisdictional conference as it may deem desirable.

¶ **35. Article IV.**-The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference as well as jurisdictional conference, if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M. Div. degree or its equivalent in regional conferences outside of the USA and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election.

¶ **36. Article V.**-The lay delegates to the General Conference and to their respective regional conference, as well as jurisdictional conference if its regional conference has jurisdictions, shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age, provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General Conference and regional conferences as well as the jurisdictional conferences, if its regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ **40 Article II.**- The number, names, and boundaries of the annual conferences and episcopal areas shall be determined by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction,

if a regional conference has jurisdictions. The authority of regional and jurisdictional conferences provided herein is not circumscribed or limited by the authority provided to the College of Bishops to arrange a plan of episcopal supervision.

¶ **46. Article II.**-The bishops shall be elected by the respective regional conferences or by the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by each regional conference, provided that episcopal elections in regional conferences without jurisdictions shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of such regional conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

¶ **48. Article IV.**-The bishops of each regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall constitute a College of Bishops, and such College of Bishops shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the annual conferences, missionary conferences, and missions within their respective territories.

¶ **49. Article V.**-The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in their respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, in which they are elected or to which they are transferred. Bishops may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision under the following conditions: (1) The transfer of bishops may be on either of two bases: (a) a jurisdiction that receives a bishop by transfer from another jurisdiction may transfer to that jurisdiction or to a third jurisdiction one of its own bishops eligible for transfer, so that the number transferred in by each jurisdiction shall be balanced by the number transferred out; or (b) a jurisdiction may receive a bishop from another jurisdiction and not transfer out a member of its own College of Bishops. (2) No bishop shall be transferred unless that bishop shall have specifically consented.

(3) No bishop shall be eligible for transfer unless the bishop shall have served one quadrennium in the jurisdiction that elected the bishop to the episcopacy. (4) All such transfers shall require the approval by a majority vote of the members present and voting of the jurisdictional committees on episcopacy of the jurisdictions that are involved. After the above procedures have been followed, the transferring bishop shall become a member of the receiving College of Bishops and shall be subject to residential assignment by that jurisdictional conference.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service in another jurisdiction than that which elected the bishop, provided that the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, through the death or disability of a bishop or other cause, the Council of Bishops may assign a bishop from another regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, to the work of the said regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that regional conference or jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

¶ 50. *Article VI.* - Bishops elected by the jurisdictions shall have life tenure. Bishops elected by a regional conference without jurisdictions shall have such tenure as the regional conference electing them shall have determined.

The regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions, shall elect a standing committee on episcopacy to consist of one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference, on nomination of the annual conference delegation. The committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to its respective regional conference or jurisdiction, if a region has jurisdictions, its findings for

such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The committee shall recommend the assignments of the bishops to their respective residences for final action by the respective regional conference or the jurisdiction, if a regional conference has jurisdictions.

These provisions shall not preclude the adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.

¶ **52. Article VIII.** - The bishops of the several regional conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective conferences. If a regional conference has jurisdictions, the bishops shall also preside in the session of their respective jurisdictional conference.

¶ **56. Article II.** - The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops or one-fifth of the members of the General Conference and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a regional or jurisdictional conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that regional or jurisdictional conference or upon the appeal of one-fifth of the members of that regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, regional, or jurisdictional conference board or body, upon appeal by one-third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a regional or jurisdictional conference.

...

¶ 61. *Article III.* - A regional or jurisdictional conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the Church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopts the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the annual conferences according to the provision for amendments.

The ratification process by the annual conferences for the constitutional amendments in this petition shall begin no later than 30 days after the adjournment of the postponed 2020 General Conference.

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|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ratification<br>Ballot #2 | Calendar Item 240   | Approved 607-67 | May 3, 2024    |
|                           | Committee Item GA11 | Approved 48-2   | April 26, 2024 |
|                           | Petition 20240      |                 |                |

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,<sup>4</sup> or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.<sup>5</sup> In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.<sup>6</sup>

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

**[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]**

¶ 4. Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church-The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, gender, ability, color, national origin, status,<sup>4</sup> or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.<sup>5</sup> In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.<sup>6</sup>

4. Amended 1992.

5. Amended 2000.

6. See Judicial Council Decisions 242, 246, 340, 351, 362, 377, 398, 594, 601, and Decisions 4 and 5, Interim Judicial Council.

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|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ratification<br>Ballot #3 | Calendar Item 550   | Approved 621-59 | May 3, 2024    |
|                           | Committee Item IC50 | Approved 25-1   | April 27, 2024 |
|                           | Petition 20332      |                 |                |

~~¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as a God's unique and beloved children. child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.~~<sup>7</sup>

7. Amended 2000

**[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]**

¶ 5. Article V. Racial Justice-The United Methodist Church proclaims that from God's goodness and love, God created all persons as God's unique and beloved children. Racism opposes God's law, goodness, and love and diminishes the image of God in each person. Fueled by white privilege, white supremacy, and colonialism, the sin of racism has been a destructive scourge on global society and throughout the history of The United Methodist Church. It continues to destroy our communities, harm persons, obstruct unity, and undermine God's work in this world. Racism must be eradicated. Therefore, The United Methodist Church commits to confronting and eliminating all forms of racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy, in every facet of its life and in society at large.<sup>7</sup>

7. Amended 2000

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|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Ratification<br>Ballot #4 | Calendar Item 555    | Approved 547-99 | May 2, 2024    |
|                           | Committee Item OM153 | Approved 39-4   | April 27, 2024 |
|                           | Petition 20070       |                 |                |

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from <sup>74</sup> the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their



educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an ~~M. Div.~~ Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. <sup>75</sup>

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

**[If ratified, the paragraph would read as follows:]**

¶ 35. Article IV. The clergy delegates to the General Conference and to the jurisdictional or central conference shall be elected from <sup>74</sup> the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or a Master of Divinity degree from a University Senate-approved theological school or its equivalent as recognized in a central conference and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the election. <sup>75</sup>

74. Amended 1996

75. See Judicial Council Decision 1181. Amended 2008.

*[Editorial note: The proposed change of language in this paragraph related to central conferences would be changed to reflect the necessary updates should the Proposed Constitutional Amendment related to Regionalization be ratified.]*

# REPORTS

# CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES



## 2024 EPA Camp and Retreat Ministries Report

The Mission of the Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries is to provide transforming experiences in sacred spaces within God's creation that bring diverse people to new and renewed life in Jesus Christ.

**4,000  
Campers**

In 2024 the four sites had 4,000 registrations for summer camp. This includes both overnight and day campers.

Each site serves guests outside of the summer camp season. In 2024, 21,000 guests experienced Christian hospitality at the camp and retreat centers.

**21,000  
Guests**

**160  
Summer  
Staffers**

During the 2024 Summer season 160 teens, college students and adults served in ministry across the four sites to facilitate summer camp programs. From lifeguards, to kitchen and maintenance help, to counselors these staff help create safe supportive environments for each camper to learn and grow.

In 2024, 384 dedicated volunteers generously shared their time, skills, and talents, contributing over 44,000 hours of service. Their efforts spanned a wide range of roles, including volunteer counselors, program directors, chaplains, maintenance support, kitchen assistance, and supporting fundraising and site events.

**384  
Volunteers**

**\$100,000**

In 2024, a \$100,000 in scholarships were awarded to ensure that camp remains an accessible experience for everyone, regardless of financial circumstances.

Beyond the numbers are countless stories of the impact each site is having on those who visit.

One such story comes from Pocono Plateau. Over the past two summers there has been one camper who has come multiple weeks. His father is in prison and the mother struggles financially to support the family. The camper has behavior challenges at school and struggles to connect with other students. Pocono Plateau has provided scholarships to make the camp experience possible and staff and volunteers have worked hard to embrace this camper. After this past summer the camper's mother commented that the camper has found a place where they belong and feel safe. His mother has already reached out to register the camper for summer 2025.

This is just one short story that highlights the important work that is happening at each of our camps.

Thank you to all those who help make this possible. From financial donors, to summer volunteers, to others who put in hours on all sorts of projects throughout the year. Everyone has a role in making possible this work. We could not do any of it without you.

If you are interested in hearing more about the work being done (and maybe getting involved) in Camp and Retreat Ministry please make sure to reach out to one of the sites. They would be glad to share more.

-The Camp and Retreat Ministry Board



# CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Wesleyan value of ecumenical openness, welcoming students from more than 40 denominations. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 416 from 13 countries, 41 states, 32 annual conferences, and 43% persons of color. We see this diversity as a blessing, enriching our life together and providing the perfect context for training for relevant ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six degrees (Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Religion and Leadership, Master of Religion and Public Life, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry), most of which are available in hybrid or online formats. Response to our hybrid-format Master of Divinity, blending online classes and in-person intensives, continues to be strong: 63% of 2024's MDiv entering class chose the hybrid model. Nearly a quarter of MDiv students participate in Candler's Teaching Parish program, earning contextual education credit by serving as student pastors in local churches. And our proven DMin program—with a near 90% completion rate—is 90% online. These flexible options along with Candler's recognized academic excellence and hands-on learning opportunities are opening possibilities for more people to follow God's call to ministry.

Generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2024-2025, we are on track to award nearly \$6.5 million in scholarship support across all degree programs. All MDiv students receive scholarship support, and those who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships. Plus, a remarkable gift this year of \$20 million from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation promises to have a transformative impact on the school and future students alike, fueling a considerable expansion of our scholarship program and reducing financial barriers to high-quality theological education.

Several programs beyond our formal degrees make Candler a hub of Christian learning for an expanding audience. Those who are not seeking a graduate degree can engage in learning through The Candler Foundry, which offers in-person and online short courses, events, and certificate programs; the United Methodist Course of Study for educating licensed local pastors; the Candler Center for Christian Leadership for refining business skills of United Methodist leaders; and La Mesa Academy, offering a graduate certificate in theological studies via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish, English, and Korean.

Candler continued to strengthen the already robust United Methodist presence among our faculty with four key appointments this year: Geordan Hammond, associate professor of Methodist and Wesleyan studies; Soren Hessler, assistant professor in the practice of leadership and administration; Jennifer Quigley, assistant professor of New Testament; and Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, who joined us as bishop-in-residence following the retirement of Bishop Larry Goodpaster.

Jonathan Strom became dean of Candler in August 2024, when former dean Jan Love returned to the faculty. Strom has served on Candler's faculty since 1997 as professor of church history, with nearly a decade as senior associate dean of faculty and academic affairs, and a number of years as director of international initiatives. He is committed to nurturing the school's deep connection with The United Methodist Church.

Candler is strengthened by your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of the church. We invite you to visit us online at [candler.emory.edu](https://candler.emory.edu) and follow us on social media to stay informed of all we offer throughout the year.

—Office of Communications  
Candler School of Theology, Emory University

# COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

Annual Conference Report- Prepared by Barbara Revere & Stacey Jones-Anderson, Co-Chairs

## Vision:

The Conference Commission on Religion and Race assists The United Methodist Church in Eastern Pennsylvania to foster intercultural competency and cooperation, live into institutional equity, and engage in straightforward, Christian conversations. We strive to provide practical resources and support to leaders throughout the Church to help them engage and embrace the cultural diversity present in our congregations and communities.

## Mission:

**To challenge, equip and enable full and equal participation of the racial ethnic constituency in EPAUMC. The mission will be fulfilled by:**

- Ensuring inclusiveness as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- Supporting leaders who are committed to the overall goals of the General Commission on Religion and Race.
- Giving voice to the issues and concerns of racial ethnic people within the bounds of EPAUMC.
- Developing and/or distributing resource materials related to issues of racism, diversity, inclusivity and institutional equity.
- Participating as an active stakeholder in the implementation of the NE Jurisdiction Call to Action.
- Monitoring all levels of the church for equity, and advocating for justice where inequity is found.

## Expectations for Members of this Commission:

- Attend all scheduled monthly meetings - either by video, phone or in person. A maximum of 3 unexcused sessions will be granted (discussion will occur concerning your commitment). If you are unable to fulfill your regular engagement with this commission your participation will be discontinued and a replacement made.
- Reply promptly to all email and text requests for a response - especially those identified as URGENT!
- Participate in preparing and sharing a devotion for at least one CORR meeting.
- Represent CORR at other Conference and Church related events and gatherings – especially with groups, churches, Districts, task forces, and connectional ministries and events.

## 2024 Accomplishments/Met Goals

- **February 2024** – CRCC trainers presented a two hour workshop entitled “*Starting a Conversation About Race*” in West Chester for the West Chester Presbyterian church and IMU El Buen Samaritano UMC. Participants consisted of seven teenagers and three adults.
- **Spring 2024** - Reviewed all Annual Conference Resolutions for Implicit Bias.
- CRCC training was provided to Salem UMC in Orwigsburg.
- **Tools for Ministry** – CRCC training was provide at the following three district sites.
- West District: **February 24** at Salem UMC in Manheim,
- South-East Region: **March 2** at Eastern University in St. David’s, PA
- North District: **March 9** at Asbury UMC in Allentown.
- **May 23 2024** - *Annual Conference Monitoring Report* (May 21-22) This report was never presented at Annual Conference because it was not given time on stage or from the floor, even after multiple requests. **Praise Report** – The gathered body expressed thanks for the ability to gather with colleagues, friends, and peers for worship, fellowship, eating, exploring and holy conferencing.

Participants were grateful for a center that was physically accessible with large restrooms, beautiful sea views, nearby ample housing and restaurants. They were joyful for the opportunity to receive Communion at the Beach as well. Moreover, they expressed praise and thanksgiving for musicians who led them in singing of diverse music and style in diverse languages while incorporating many different voices. We celebrated that the stage was accessible for a participant in a wheelchair, that there was the inclusion of participation of neurodiverse individuals, that participants were reminded to use the microphone slowly and clearly and that listening devices were available. In all sessions, the leadership on stage included diversity in genders and races. There was celebration for the diversity of leadership honored at the Service of Passage with elders, deacons, local licensed pastors, CLMs and laity represented. Monitors noted that the Bishop named the need for additional work in clergy recruitment among more diverse individuals and communities. The greeters' welcoming spirit at the front door each day set the tone for participants to feel that they belonged. **Concerns Report** - 2- 5 hours travel time to get to Wildwood, the spending of EPA funds on a venue outside of EPA, annual conference occurring midweek which excluded youth and young adult who were in classes; lay and clergy who were unable to take off from work to participate. Some participants felt underrepresented, unheard and unseen for the following reason: they felt called out for theological differences, names mispronounced or mis-named, those who were misgendered (use siblings & people, not brothers & sister or men & women). Concerns regarding consistency and correctness of closed captioning, lack of printed material for Memorial Service and laity sessions. During worship services those presented on stage were primarily elders. Moreover, men spoke twice as often as women and white folks spoke three times as often as all other races combined. During plenary sessions white male clergy spoke at the microphones half of the time, followed by white clergy women speaking 1/5<sup>th</sup> of time. The proximity of the chairs in rows, the inability to move the chairs, and the lack of tables in West Hall was a concern. Finally, it is important to ensure speakers and singers volume is differentiated enough from the volume of the music. Concerns were expressed about how feedback between the sound system and hearing devices impacted listeners.

- **September 28** - *Annual CRCC New Appointment Training* was held on Zoom. This was a combined training opportunity for churches and clergy from EPA & GNJ. 62 persons participated in the training. There were 8 breakout rooms, facilitated by presenters, panelists, and Team of Trainers volunteers from both conferences. An important new aspect of the training was a skit illustrating how micro-aggressions often occur in new CRCC situations. Panelists and presenter read the roles, then participants had a chance to respond in breakout rooms.

#### **Goals 2024 -2025**

- a. Complete and make available an Implicit Bias training video.
- b. Make a video of the CRCC Micro-aggressions Skit for training use.
- c. CRCC Trainers and HWOR Core group will develop a Level 2 training course to be offered in 2025.
- d. CORR will work with Congregational Development Team to co-sponsor a book study in 2025.
- e. Train and actively engage CR/CC Team of Companions to accompany CR/CC appointments during the first 2 years of a new appointment. Provide continued connection to CR/CC pastors beyond the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- f. Continue to support the work of the Economic Justice Council.

# LAY LEADER REPORT

This report outlines the key activities, challenges, and goals of the Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) United Methodist Church's Conference Lay Leadership. It reflects the laity's efforts to strengthen its mission, improve collaboration, and address ongoing challenges.

## **Spiritual growth, education, and discipleship.**

Our Team, including the District Lay Leaders and the Board of Directors Laity, worked extensively. This environment allowed for free thought and better relationships, and we were able to accomplish more in a shorter time. The group is more excited and wants to see this work. The free approach allows us to assist Dawn and Bishop with genuine information and support.

AACll Spring/Summer July 27<sup>th</sup> Purpose: to continue providing learning opportunities for the laity of the UMC through the AACLL. Each event has built unity among the AACLL leadership while exposing lay leaders to opportunities to connect and grow throughout the connection. This gathering is the first gathering since General Conference 2024

## **Successful visits to local churches & districts in building relationships among churches and leaders**

Visiting the entire conference allows them to meet, get to know me, and share their responses. Good relationships are the key to learning to go every and to give very well not only with the laity but with District Supervisors and conference staff; he needs to provide me with a better understanding of the church as a whole and how to identify the needs and support the needs of the laity to work better with the clergy which is best for our church and our mission of making discipleship engage give better service for those who hear can be better advised on how to approach different people of all ages and races. Jesu is for us to learn to love one another. How to approach, listen, and understand is a good start. I stopped at Camphor & Wharton-Wesley's Anniversary and engaged in listening and understanding.

I joined with the district supervisors to lend support and present to Bishop Shol to resolve a legal issue within the Norristown Court. He won!

I stopped and enjoyed talking about breakfast at the new dining hall at Tindley Tea Cafe, one of the latest restaurants, and dined with my wife. I was not disappointed -762 S Broad St Philadelphia, PA 19146, Located in the

The New Prominent, Preeminent, and Premiere Brunch Restaurant on Broad Street

Wharton-Wesley to perform Lay Leader duties. Members sought an excellent program, and Father's Day was a great way to return to my home church.

## **Challenges and Opportunities**

We recognize and admit we have trouble keeping our younger generation in the church and not bringing in the unchurched. In business jargon, in some places, "What we are, they aren't buying!"

Acknowledging challenges shows a clear understanding of the realities facing lay leadership and the broader church, while identifying opportunities demonstrates forward-thinking leadership.

## **Specific challenges impacting lay ministry**



Avoid using unfamiliar language. Yes, it's accurate that approximately 54% of American adults read below a sixth-grade level. In many cases, we are not making disciples but losing them. Without notes, most adults recall very little of a sermon after a week—typically around 5–10% of the content.

It is easy to confuse busy work with actual work. Look at the law of physics. Understanding What Work Is: **W** is the **work** to be done, **F** is the **force** applied, and **D** is the object. Suppose the object does not move in the **direction** of the object's displacement. Then you have done no work.

Many members are working very hard, and they are frustrated. When they come home from work, they work for the church because they love what a thriving church has done for them and want to share that with the people's community. They think their time is taken for granted and not respected. They worry that their churches will no longer be sustainable and close. What a downer.

### **Practical solutions or strategies to address these challenges.**

With a church that is 90% laity and only about 10% Clergy, it would be wise to spend more time and support to the needs and direction of the laity. Communication with and exchanging ideas and approaches with close follow would be a start. Some churches are growing, and there is a reason. John Lafferty CLM and his wife, Jennifer CLM, were showcased on the front cover, and John was acknowledged at the EPA Laity Session.

Collaborate with a nearby church—it does not have to be a Methodist church—and become known in the community for what you do.

*The laity shares these ideas.*

### **Goals and Vision for the Coming Year**

IGNITE Registration January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Leadership Academy attended a seminar with several presenters at 129 S High St, West Chester, PA 19382. We met the presenters and laity to get a feel of the program and how it can be used to assist our laity further. I intend to work closer with them. Many have interesting approaches to discipleship.

We need someone to work with you on a specific grant at the church site to work with you and ask the community heart to collaborate and get to know lawyers, police, teachers, bankers, and other ministers. We will continue to support Tools for the Ministry's mission; however, more follow-up is needed to support what was learned.

### **Initiatives to increase engagement, especially among youth, young adults, and marginalized groups.**

They want a conversation. Adults tend to retain around 20–30% of what they hear immediately. Still, this percentage can drop significantly after a day unless reinforced through repetition, discussion, or application of today's training education in terms of themes.

### **My vision is to strengthen the connectional relationship between clergy and laity.**

I voted for the Narberth UMC Legacy Ministry Action Grant

Respect their achievements, i.e., CLM, CSMs in the pulpit, and conversations immediately after the sermon.

Meeting schedules must be revised, combined, and others removed. Having a meeting because you are supposed to have one drives young people crazy. Many meetings can lean too heavily on process rather than results. Offering lacking clear goals and actionable outcomes, poor efficient time management, turning into rituals of discussion rather than drivers of progress. Meetings are valuable when they facilitate decision-making, collaboration, or alignment. Without this, they risk wasting time and energy. Optimizing meetings requires clear agendas, concise formats, and a focus on deliverables rather than dialogue.

The Methodist is full of wonder people and many programs that are needed and must be retained. The love of Christ and the need for our salvation will never change. However, our approach must fit the times we are in now. In other words, the need for transportation will never change; however, your mode of transportation must change with time. Otherwise, you will find yourself driving a Model T down I-95.

### **Getting Around the Conference**

Attend Mother African Zoar's 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Banquet: Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> @ The Hilton Philadelphia.

South District Mini CSM Academy Hopewell UMC The Journey Begins, Led by Judy Ehninger, CLM, two additional presentations.

Continue to attend all Connectional Table meetings,

Opening a relationship with Delaware County Mayor Edward Brown, MBA, MS & Debra A. Williams, MBA, M. Ed., School Director.

Continue to attend & participate in BOOM activities as much as possible.

I continued to attend Tools for Ministry, visited the laity, clergy, and presenters, and was invited to speak.

Attended a series of recognitions honoring the Certified Lay Minister Graduation on Sunday, June 2nd, @ 3 pm.

Created a team approach with the vice chair laity meeting as needed to help the bishop with important information. EPA laity session freely shared assistance to the laity where needed. Messiah UMC February 25th, 3 pm: Tribute to Dr. Charles Albert Tindley.

Attended EPA Laity Academy 40<sup>th</sup> @ Eastern University on August 3rd, 2024. To support Brenda Binns, Dean of Academy, I met several presenters, and students also spoke. Stopped in and engaged with the membership, students, and presenters. Judy Ehninger, CLM, presented "The Basics Class," and John Lafferty, CLM Local Church Leadership Skills & Development, met with Reverend Steve Morton to discuss his valued work with statistics supported.

### **Episcopacy**

Welcome, Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi & and Reverend Raphael Koikoi & Bless you and your family.

Episcopal Residence I signed October 25th, 2024, Proposal-Agreement Final

Participated in “A Service Celebrating The Assignment Of A Bishop To An Area. “The Episcopal Residency Committee of the United Methodist of Eastern Pennsylvania requests that the CCFA of the EPA approve the drawdown of funds according to the presented repayment schedule to support the Eastern Pennsylvania contribution of half of the Episcopal residence purchase VK Macwana & Steven Cherry & William Thompson, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Our meeting with our new Bishop Koikoi went very well. The back-and-forth between the District Lay Leaders and the Board of Laity was transparent, and the meeting worked very well with much realistic dialogue. Our meetings are purposeful and thoughtful and usually complete in 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the concern. Our attendance was 100 percent, with meaningful follow-up.

Some key objectives in her first months with us have been met:

- Conducted onboarding training to hear both the hopes and concerns of laity and clergy
- Led district days to learn about each district
- Met with conference staff, Connectional table, boards, agencies, lay and clergy leadership
- Hiring of key staff, including our new CFO
- Continuing to work in partnership with GNJ while valuing EPA’s contextual needs
- The first appointment season is underway

The Bishop was well received. She had a Q& A session that also went well with good questions at every stop. I was invited to serve at Lansdale. The bishop also had a pre-service meeting with a small group with some and food at each stop before each service

I accompanied our Bishop at every stop on her journey, offering assistance and support as needed. The formal meetings with congregations began at 7 PM at each location. I had a small role at two of the stops, and my District Lay Leaders were present at each location to provide additional support.

Her journey started on Thursday, December 5th, at Cedarville UMC in the South District. On Friday, December 6th, she visited Lansdale UMC in the East District, where her husband joined her. During this stop, the Bishop served communion, and I was honored to assist.

The West District meeting took place on Monday, December 9th, at Lampeter UMC, where my District Lay Leaders again supported the event. The final stop was on Tuesday, December 10th, at Bethlehem: Wesley UMC. The Q&A sessions at each location were well-received, and the Bishop handled them gracefully. After each meeting, she stayed to engage with parishioners and offered parting words before departing.

The Bishop Implemented A Journey of Healing focus for 2025 to allow laity and clergy to express prayer requests and begin a journey towards healing.

Working with urban commission and leadership to develop a comprehensive urban plan

Update on episcopal residence basic fixing and minor repairs are being done.

Call to continue to pray for Bishop Moore-Koikoi and Rev. Koikoi

*Thank You For Your Exceptional Support.*

Dawn Taylor-Storm, Director of Connectional Ministries EPA & GNJ

Lenora J. Thompson, Advisor

**The Team:** Suzette James, Vice Chair Conference Lay Leader, **District Lay Leaders** Patricia Wilson, CSM North, Jennifer Lafferty, CLM South; Frances Whittington, CLM South; Susan Grimm Mattox, CSM West

**Board of Laity** Judy Ehninger, *Coordinator Certified Lay Minister Program* CLM, Conference Director, *Christ Servant Ministries* George Hollich, CSM Brenda Binns Laity Academy *Dean of the Laity Academy*, Member Aubrey Bates. CLM, *Our Very First Class In 2010*, Joseph Skarbowski Guest & Diana Wisley Guest (*Former Dean of the Laity Academy*)

**District Superintendent** Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark, *South District*, Rev. Dr. Hun Ju Lee, *North District*, Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster III, East District Superintendent, Rev. Jennifer S. Freymoyer, West District.

**Special thanks to:**

David C. Teel is the Director of Laity and Spiritual Leadership at Discipleship Ministries  
James Lee, Joshua Watkins, David Beverly Communications  
John Coleman Editorial Manager, VK Macwana *Point Episcopacy Point Person*

*Thank you, Laity and Clergy, for all your Prayers. Thanks, and God seems to always answer.*

**EPA Laity Session 2024**

Opening prayer, Dr. Denniss Booher, CLM, Honoring our Laity who have passed this year, Carol Gibson, CLM, Ice Breaker “Getting to Know You” Susan Grimm Mattox, CSM, Laity Academy Presentation, Brend Binns, Dean of the Laity Academy Nomination of Laity Reserve Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference, Judy Ehninger, CLM, Introduction of our District Lay Leaders, Jennifer Lafferty CLM, Honoring our CSM’s George Hollick, CLM’s Conference Director, Honoring our CLM’s Judy Ehninger, CLM Coordinator Certified Lay Minister Program, Breakthrough, Reverend Dr. Juel F. Nelson, Scholarship Presentations, Lenora J. Thompson, Chairperson, Pathways Presentation Reverend Gina Yeske, Camp & Retreat Ministry Presentation, Apryl Miller, Director of Gretna Glen, Camp & Retreat Center, Our Preaching Institute, Mary Cranwell, EPA United Women In Faith (EPA UWFaith), Ronda Rea, President, Deaconess Presentation Darlene DiDomineck, Deaconess, Commemoration & Honorarium for Service

Bill Thompson, Sr. Conference Lay Leader & Susan Grimm Mattox, CSM, Introduction of our Keynote Speaker Bill Thompson, Sr. Conference Lay Leader, 100-year Lay Member Song “I Tried” (Video), Prayer Patricia Wilson, CSM

Immediately following our program, all were joined in his Book Signing, with Reverend Dr. Michael Beck as the Keynote Speaker. He also had another session after lunch.

The lessons learned at our Laity Session allow us to see and experience the love of laity and entice the laity to come next year. We also had a special session in a separate room after the EPA Laity Session, which was well attended. In general, the laity brings you through the church doors.

*Remember what Jesus said: “The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”*

- **William “Bill” Thompson, Sr**  
Conference Lay Leader Report January 2025

# CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES & LEADERSHIP REPORT

## EPA Connectional Ministries & Leadership Report to the 2025 Annual Conference

### Disaster Response and Recovery

- We celebrate our partnership with United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through grants totaling \$1,195,585 in 2022 -2024 and the expansion of Hurricane Recovery efforts into Philadelphia with a grant extension approved from UMCOR of \$199,999 for 2025. In addition, other gifts and grants were given to support the work of Hurricane Ida & Isaias totaling \$77,151.76 for a total commitment thus far to EPA Recovery Efforts for Hurricane Ida & Hurricane Isaias of **\$1,395,584.00**
- We celebrate the completion of Hurricane Isaias repair projects and the community resilience that they will continue to carry with them as they actively engage with their own community neighborhood agencies.
- We celebrate volunteer teams in EPA and beyond EPA serving alongside survivors repairing homes and rebuilding lives as we serve **67** families in the process of recovery. Including significant collaborations with AmeriCorps, World Renew, Team Rubicon and others.
- We celebrate joining with GNJ to deploy an Emergency Response Team of 11 dedicated volunteers to aid in the Hurricane Helene response in North Georgia.
- We celebrate the collection of over 500 clean up buckets for donation to Mission Central that will be sent for future disaster response as needed.

### Camp & Retreat Ministries

- EPA-UMC Camps served **25,857** summer campers and guests in 2024
- EPA-UMC Camps received **\$617,113 from 1,244** donations and grants.
- EPA-UMC Camps had **384** volunteers giving approximately **44,408** hours of service.
- EPA-UMC Camps gave **\$100,669** in scholarship to support families in attending camp.

### Youth & Young Adult Ministries/Wesley Foundation at Drexel University

- **1700** students fed through the Wesley Foundation at Drexel University
- EPA joined with GNJ to support IGNITE 2024, a transformative youth experience for youth & youth leaders
- EPA Youth Leader Days support connections and build community among youth leaders

### Leadership & Congregational Development

- **1.3M** received in grant funding through the Lilly Foundation in a collaborative grant with GNJ to develop the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute, designed to equip clergy in their preaching goals and provide a supportive community for growth and experimentation in preaching
- A **\$750,000** matching grant received to expand Bridges, a new congregational training that is experiential, in person opportunity for congregations to bridge to their congregations
- Monthly spiritual retreats continue to provide a place of respite and renewal for clergy
- EPA's online licensing school continues to train candidates locally and beyond
- Over **1,500** individuals in EPA&GNJ resourced in areas of leadership, intercultural competency, missional giving, local church administration and congregational vitality
- **3** Cohorts launched to focus on CRCC ministry, Stewardship and Foundational Ministry
- National and International Recruitment and connections with seminaries in EPA expanded to include Mosaic recruitment
- Expansion of Breakthrough, a sermon series resource, to **16,000** unique users, here in EPA and throughout the world

### **EPA 2024 Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team**

- Christmas cards for the incarcerated program – **7280** cards with encouraging messages were delivered to a total of **9** correctional facilities (8 in PA, 1 in TX) for distribution to the incarcerated as a sign of God’s love and care. Thanks to all in EPA and GNJ who supported and participated in this ministry!
- Undies for Easter – a great success – thanks to the many who participated from both EPA and GNJ! Underwear needed for those entering incarceration was delivered to the Head Chaplain of the Philadelphia Prison System, including
  - **3096** men’s briefs
  - **2039** men’s undershirts
  - **368** pair socksAs a bonus, on the day of delivery, the Chaplain led a small group to enter and directly deliver 100 packed bags of briefs, undershirts, and socks, to men in one of the intake pods at the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility.
- Healing communities training was provided to **13** individuals representing both EPA and GNJ, to help congregations and community members learn more about how to help those impacted by the criminal justice system.

### **Office of Latino Ministries**

- We celebrate the introduction of our new Leadership Team at the Latino Commission! We would like to extend our gratitude to our former team for their dedication and hard work. We are excited to announce our new team, led by:
  - Rev. Ricardo Ramos, Co-President
  - Mrs. Laurie Ramos, Secretary
  - Mrs. Beditza Cadillo, Treasurer, who also graduated as CLM.
- **Three** more members of the Commission have embarked on the CSM and CLM training to become Lay Pastors, taking the first step towards serving our community.
- We are pleased to report that all Latino churches are now in compliance with the Safe Sanctuary Policy, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all.
- In response to the needs of the Lebanon area, a new Latino Ministry has begun, thanks to the joint effort of several local churches.
- We have equipped **50** laity members with valuable skills in Congregational Development, Community Engagement, and Local Church Organization, empowering them to serve their communities.
- Our Semana Latina summer camp saw an impressive **60** participants, providing a fun and enriching experience for our youth.
- We are excited to offer **three** courses in Spanish through Leadership Academy, with a fourth course currently in development. This initiative aims to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and leadership development for our Spanish-speaking community.
- We rejoice in the deepening partnership between the EPA and GNJ Conference, as we work together to amplify our collective impact. Our shared vision is to leverage our unique gifts, talents, and resources to glorify God and spread the message of love, mercy, and justice to our communities. Through this collaborative effort, we aim to strengthen our ministries and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us.

For more information on EPA Connectional Ministries, Pathways Enrollment, Project Restoration, Camp & Retreat Ministries, Latino Ministries or Congregational Development please contact the Office of Connectional Ministries: dtaylorstorm@epagnj.org

# DREW UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

## 2024 Report to the United Methodist Annual Conferences

**Rev. Edwin David Aponte, PhD, ThD (honorary)**  
**Dean and Professor of Religion & Culture**

**January 10, 2025**

Drew University Theological School educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents for ministry and service in the church, society, and the wider world. Building upon its Wesleyan and Methodist foundations, Drew Theological School is diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities of its faculty, students, and staff. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with prior ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. In providing theological education to the world, Drew holds in-person classes in Madison, New Jersey, classes that meet exclusively online, while others meet in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person, as well as in-person Doctor of Ministry cohort in South Korea and a pilot in-person Master of Divinity cohort in Liberia. Regular chapel worship originates on campus in Seminary Hall, but also is live-streamed so that students, alumni, and friends around the world can participate. Drew Theological School is a global seminary with a global student population serving the worldwide church.

In Fall 2024 Drew Theological School welcomed 94 new students in all degree programs, with total student enrollment (by headcount) in Fall 2024 semester being 388. Enrollment of international students at Drew increased from 120 students in Fall 2021 to 157 students in Fall 2024. This number includes students who are studying full-time in the U.S.A. on a student Visa, students who are studying online from their home country, and students in the South Korean Cohort of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Drew's interdisciplinary degree programs provide real-world apprenticeships, promote adaptive leadership skills, and encourage innovation through team-taught core courses as well as a variety of electives that integrate theological disciplines and faith practices. The Drew faculty's shared values are infused across all aspects of the teaching, learning, and the formation of students: 1) a commitment to anti-racism; 2) gender and sexual-identity equality; 3) eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and 4) interfaith understanding and cooperation. Drew Theological School has an increase in United Methodist students, additionally, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows pursuing further education for ministry. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States, and especially within nearby regional episcopal areas of The United Methodist Church in the annual conferences of Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Susquehanna, Upper New York, New York, and New England.

**Submitted by** Janet Okang

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE COUNCIL (A PATH TOWARDS WHOLENESS)

## A Path Towards Wholeness

A Church for All People Serving All People with Justice & Equity

### 2025 Report to the Eastern PA Annual Conference from the Economic Justice Council

In 2022, Eastern PA Annual Conference passed legislation “*A Path Towards Wholeness.*” *A Path Towards Wholeness* is an urgent calling to our Conference to adopt a comprehensive strategy in order that all congregations and communities may experience wholeness. We understand that only through a just and equitable church will wholeness be possible for all congregations. Racial economic justice means building economic/financial systems and processes that enable all people to live more equitably in all areas of life. This requires us to address the inherited system inequities within our congregations and the resulting disadvantage of churches of color.

*A Path Towards Wholeness* continues this work to create **a more just, inclusive and equitable church.**

We seek to act **NOW** by creating:

- **N**ew ministries and revitalized ministries with churches of color;
  - **O**pportunities for advancement with churches of color and clergy of color in leadership and ministry; and
  - **W**itnesses in every local congregation who will work to dismantle racism in our churches and communities
1. **N**ew ministries and revitalized ministries with churches of color:  
**Transformational Measures and Actions:**
    - Provide funding and other resources, including but not limited to equitable salary and benefits, technology, training and consultants that will strengthen and increase the vitality of 10 existing congregations of color by Dec. 31, 2027 (Assigned to CCFA & Extended Cabinet)
    - Develop 4 new faith communities of color, including at least 1 new Black faith community, by Dec. 31, 2027 by using new technologies and innovative strategies by Dec. 31, 2027 (Assigned to Extended Cabinet & CDT)
    - Develop 10 Hope Centers serving racial/ethnic communities with a focus on locally based missions that intentionally connect, engage, and partner with their communities for sustainable transformation. Include Black & Indigenous Persons of Color (BIPOC) and community leaders and representatives to assess community needs and design plans to strengthen and resource identified needs. Foster relationships with local businesses and organizations in order to operate in an asset-based development model. Train congregations and community leaders through the Ministry Center in cultural awareness and to assist congregations to serve the people in their communities. (Assigned to Extended Cabinet, CDT & Urban Commission)



2. **O**pportunities for advancement with churches of color and clergy of color in leadership and ministry:

Transformational Measures and Actions:

- \$300,000 Investment in 2023; \$300,000 Investment in 2024, with a conference goal of 1.5M investment by Dec. 31, 2027, in clergy of color and churches of color through equitable salary; reduced apportionments and targeted development funding. (Assigned to CCFA; Cabinet; CDT & Urban Ministries)
- Using Eastern PA median household income, apportion (Connectional Ministries Fund - CMF) all EPA churches using the following metrics:
  - Communities with median household income \$35,000-40,000 – apportion at 70% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$30,000-34,999 – apportion at 65% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$25,000-29,999 – apportion at 60% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income \$20,000-24,999 – apportion at 55% of current figures.
  - Communities with median household income below \$20,000 – apportion at 50% of current figures.

With concern for gentrification, we are using the median household income related to that church's specific race or ethnicity.

Those who believe they should be considered for a greater reduction may petition the Cabinet.

(Assigned to CCFA & Cabinet)

- At least 50% of EPA agency chairpersons/co-chairs are People of Color by June 2027 (currently 41%) (Assigned to EPA Conference Committee on Leadership)
- Increase the total number of African American/Black; Hispanic/Latino & Asian\* clergy serving in EPA by 20% by 2027 (13 new recruitment) (Assigned to Board of Ordained Ministry and Cabinet)
- Development of 10 clergy of color transformational leaders measured by increase from  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$ -Full-time positions by Dec. 31, 2027. (Assigned to Cabinet)
- Ensuring accountability to equal pay for equal work by conducting regular administrative compensation reviews and consistent adherence to policies. (Assigned to Human Resources)

3. **W**itnesses in 90 local congregation who are culturally competent to lead EPA and its congregations to dismantle racism and will work to dismantle racism in our churches and communities:

**Transformational Measures and Actions:**

- Thirty (30) trained EPA facilitators who are actively engaged with 90 congregations that are developing a Dismantling Racism Plan in their local context (Assigned to DCM/Commission on Religion and Race)
- Create an anti-racism audit to be used in pilot local churches as part of the charge conference process by June 2023 and all local churches by June 2027. (Assigned to the Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Team)

- Provide intercultural competence and implicit bias training materials for leaders and congregations by June 2023 (Assigned to CORR; CR/CC Support Team of Companions & Trainers)

As adopted by EPA Annual Conference in 2022, the identified measures and actions shall be the priority of the Annual Conference for the next five years and modified as needed to adapt to the changing needs of the conference in order to create a more just, inclusive and equitable church. Each year, the Path towards Wholeness Team, along with the EPA executive staff, shall report to the Annual Conference the progress on the objective as follows.

\*The term “Korean” was changed to “Asian” to reflect a broadened representation of our clergy

## 2024 PROGRESS OVERVIEW

■ No progress    
 ■ Minimal Progress    
 ■ Moderate Progress    
 ■ Completed/ Exceeded

Using the color markers above, the table provides an overview of the progress in each of the objectives at the conclusion of 2024. The data is summarized within the table.

### New and Revitalized Ministries with Churches of Color:

| OBJECTIVES:                               | 2023  | 2024   |
|---|---|--|
| Revitalize 10 existing faith communities  | 6 churches in process   | 6 churches in process<br>15 churches participate in Olu Brown cohort   |
| 4 New faith communities, at least 1 Black | 4 Latino new church start<br>Morrisville Hispanic/Latino - (started 2022)<br>Reading: El Buen Casa del Pueblo<br>Lebanon: Bethany   | TOTAL 6 new church starts<br>2 new church start:<br>Covenant: Lebanon - Hispanic/Latino<br>Center for Urban Ministry - (African American)  |
| Develop 10 Wholeness Centers              | 6 Wholeness Centers:<br>Lancaster First<br>Phila: Arch St<br>Phila: Midtown Parish<br>Phila: Zoar<br>Phila: Trinity<br>Media: First | TOTAL 14 Wholeness Centers<br>8 new Wholeness centers:<br>Norristown: Haws Ave<br>Holy Spirit - Casa de Pueblo<br>Hazleton<br>Chester: St. Daniels<br>Lebanon: Bethany<br>Phila: Camphor<br>Prospect Park<br>Center for Urban Ministry |

# Opportunities for Advancement with Churches of Color and Clergy of Color in leadership and ministry

| OBJECTIVES:   | 2023  | 2024   |
|---|---|--|
| \$300,000 in 2023 & 2024<br>\$1.5 million total by Dec. 31 2027             | 32 grants totaling \$152,123  | 24 grants totaling \$271,345<br>African American/Black - 7<br>Korean - 3<br>Latino/a;Hispanic - 3<br>Multi-Racial - 11 |
| Apportionment based on EPA median household income                          | 7 churches - 30% reduction<br>10 churches - 35% reduction<br>4 churches - 45% reduction | Added billings as part of reductions   |
| At least 50% agency chairpersons are People of Color by June 2027           | 41% BIPOC chairpersons  | Work in progress to determine accurate assessment  |
| 10% Increase total number of BIPOC clergy by 2027 - 13 new recruitment      | 6 new recruitment<br>84 active BIPOC clergy   | 16 new recruitment<br>95 active BIPOC clergy   |
| Develop 10 clergy of color by increasing from part-time to full-time        | No data   | 4 clergy increased in status, moving toward or equivalent to full-time status  |
| Accountability to equal pay for equal work - compensation review & policies | No data   | \$127,700 awarded to clergy or churches of color<br>12 churches of color<br>Funding increased status for 4 clergy      |

# Witnesses in 90 local congregations who are culturally competent to lead EPA and its congregations to dismantle racism and will work to dismantle racism in our churches and communities

| OBJECTIVES:  | 2023   | 2024  |
|--|--|---|
| 30 trained EPA facilitators engaged with 90 congregations to develop Dismantling Racism Plan | 16 facilitators trained<br>11 churches working on plan | 16 facilitators<br>24 churches working on Journey of Hope and Wholeness |
| Create anti-racism audit to use in pilot churches (2023) and ALL churches (2027)             |  | 2 workshops, 24 people<br>1 church conducting audit                     |

| OBJECTIVES:   | 2023  | 2024   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Intercultural competence &amp; implicit bias training materials for leaders &amp; congregations (June 2023)</b></p> | <p>Team of facilitators selected and trained. Curriculum developed.</p> | <p>Facilitators: 10<br/>           Trainings: 4 total<br/>           West District, 10 people<br/>           North District, 17 people<br/>           Local church, 30 people<br/>           EPA/GNJ: 37 churches, approximately 55 people</p> <p>Implicit Bias Course for Leadership Academy is being developed</p> |

### 2024 Key Actions taken to Advance the Initiatives of A Path Toward Wholeness

- Olu Brown, a consultant, was contracted as a year long coach for Black and Brown clergy and their congregations. He helped 15 churches develop sustainability plans.
- The EPA Commission on Equitable Compensation has not adopted a written policy, but their process very consistently and transparently prioritizes clergy and churches of color.
- The grant process was revised. Any and all grant requests required only one application and were submitted through Arena. This year there were 65 applications compared to 40 in 2023.
- The apportionment reductions in 2024 included both the connectional ministry fund/shared ministry funds and all the billables, providing additional financial relief for churches who qualified.
- Intentional efforts were made in the appointment process to hire clergy of color with three international recruitments.
- During the 2024 Annual Conference, coaching/training in how to develop Urban Fresh Expressions was offered to clergy and laity during one of the workshops.

### Recommendations to Continue Progress:

- ◆ Equitable Compensation for Clergy of Color is a priority, because our clergy are one of the most valuable and expensive resources. Investing in their well-being is a wise investment to improve the vitality and sustainability of our churches of color.
  - An assessment should be conducted to review the impact on clergy of color who serve a lifetime on minimum compensation and/or part-time status, especially in regards to retirement and other benefits. Based on the study, modifications to policies and procedures should be made to adjust the salary and benefits packages provided our clergy of color.
  - In order to attract new clergy of color, equitable compensation must become a priority as part of the recruitment process. This includes minimum salaries with living wages and benefit packages that care for our clergy and their families in the present and in retirement.

We must take into consideration the impact that a minimum salary career has on wealth accumulation and retirement benefits, especially as policies for funding retirement change.

- Clergy and churches of color should familiarize themselves with the Annual Conference Resolution regarding equitable compensation recommendations presented by the Commission on Equitable Compensation each year. Clergy should meet with the Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee if their salary is below the minimum base salary or if they discern the possibility of a change in status. Churches should have conversations with the district superintendent regarding salary concerns and status changes.
  - Some clergy, especially clergy of color, identify themselves as servants. They think it's inappropriate (less than spiritual) to address inconsistencies in compensation. Their theology is that God takes care of the messenger. So theologically, we need to address the way God's provision informs salary.
  - All believers must come to recognize that equitable compensation is a justice issue.
  - Funding to support clergy development from part-time to full-time, and staffing support, especially in urban contexts, is necessary to continue to develop revitalization plans.
- ◆ There's a great need for a spiritual foundation and commitment of the clergy and laity to give. Churches of color need a plan and consultants to teach them how to develop and implement a plan of giving (maybe even investing their funds). There's a need for educators to teach individual or groups of churches of color how to bring money into the church and then grow their financial resources using them for the transformational good of the whole, that is the church and community. A possible resource for this is the Financial Leadership Academy hosted by the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation.
- ◆ While we have made some progress on new church starts and revitalized churches of color, intentional work needs to be done now in revitalization of churches of color, particularly in urban contexts.
- Analysis of church buildings, including operating and maintenance costs, and new ways of using space in urban contexts needs to be conducted.
  - Funding should be provided for staffing support in churches of color and wholeness centers in order to streamline operational management and allow the focus of clergy and laity to be on ministry. The support would help the work to be done more effectively without burning out the pastor. Pastors need to have a quality of life and live in holistic wellbeing, shalom.
  - Continuation and expansion of cohort experiences with lead urban clergy across the US, like the one with Olu Brown, is critical to learn new methods and share risk-taking strategies.
  - Training and support for laity is essential. Urban modules of Christ Servant Minister & Certified Lay Minister should be considered.
  - DCOMs and BOOMs need to be equipped to identify gifts in revitalization, church planting and urban ministry
- ◆ Grant Process:

- Set aside grant monies that could be accessible throughout the year in order to respond to new church possibilities that arise in a community. If not used by December, these funds could be disbursed to new church starts already established.
- For new church starts, the church hosting the grant must reapply for grants annually. Sustaining budgets require constant oversight, resulting in undue pressure and time commitment. Consider modifying the grant process in order to support new church starts over a longer timeframe that allows them the necessary funding and time to gain a sustainable faith community.
- Direct communication of program grants, including the availability of equitable salary funds and support for grant writing. A member of the superintending team should be assigned to support grant writing and/or mid-year evaluation support when requested.

◆ Intentional Recruitment of African American Clergy

*These recommendations were included in the 2023 report and there has been limited to no progress in this area. A plan needs to be formed to address these concerns.*

- Funding for African American clergy in seminary/local Pastor school should be prioritized as part of our BOOM local Pastor/scholarship program.
- Recruitment strategies should be expanded to colleges; racial/ethnic demographics should be analyzed in colleges/seminaries so that we can intentionally focus on recruitment of African American clergy.
- Internships for young adults and college students should be marketed both internally and externally.
- Discipleship is a process, and we need to be highlighting a call to ministry for children, youth, young adults and adults.
- Cohort confirmation classes may become incubators of future leaders and should receive grant funding to support a BIPOC confirmation camp, youth group experiences and connectional opportunities.

## **CONSIDERATION FOR FURTHER EVALUATION:**

In order to adequately evaluate our goal to revitalize BIPOC congregations, we need to consider these questions:

- What does revitalization look like?
- How do we measure it?
- How can we assess revitalization with more than numbers?

Respectfully Submitted, The EPA Economic Justice Council

Rev. Eric Carr; Wilhelmina Young; Rev. Aliciá Julia-Stanley; Dr. Annie Kingcade; Rev. Lisa DePaz; Dr. Keima Sheriff; Rev. Tamie Scalise; Rev. Dr. Will Brawner; Rev. Mark Terry; Rev. Kia Lockman; Rev. Greg Impink; Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens

Advisory: DS Evelyn Kent Clark; Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm; Rev. Noé Gabriel Lopez

# GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – 2024 – 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY is the only Historically Black Theological Institution (HBTI) of The United Methodist Church. Gammon's Mission is to help prepare for the practice of Christian ministry and public leadership individuals who understand their vocation as working in partnership with God in forming a just and generative world for all.

GTS is currently an "extended unit" of the Interdenominational Theological Center. As a constituent member of the ITC who is accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), GTS has conferred degrees in partnership with the ITC for Gammon Theological Seminary graduates since 1959. Gammon Theological Seminary seeks separate accreditation through SACSCOC and the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS).

We are excited to share Academic and Operational updates for 2024.

- In June 2024, we hired a world-renowned theologian and scholar, Dr. Renita J. Weems, as our Chief Academic Officer.
- This Fall 2024, we launched state-of-the-art renovations to the Gammon building. The renovations transformed the facility into a place for four in-person class sessions, upgrading all meeting spaces with state-of-the-art technology and furnishings.
- In September 2024, the Board of Trustees of Gammon Theological Seminary approved the submission of our application to begin the SACSCOC Accreditation process. This historic decision included Gammon launching our Independent MDIV degree program in September 2024.

Here are a few of this year's ministry and fund development highlights.

- In Spring 2024, Gammon hosted our 2nd Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, which received \$70,000 in donations toward the scholarship fund.
- The Rev. Walter H. McKelvey Endowed Scholarship The fund, which was launched by Dr. Loretta F. McKelvey (wife of the late Rev. McKelvey) and Dr. Walter Kimbrough, continues to grow with matching gifts in partnership with the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation.
- In June 2024, the Florida Conference's Rev. Geraldine McClellan Endowed Scholarship Fund, which is now fully endowed at the Florida United Methodist Foundation, continued to grow with donations for 2024. Now, the fund balance exceeds \$130,000.00, and Dr. Geraldine McClellan was honored at our 2024 Founder's Day/Pastors and Leaders Conference Gala banquet with our Icon of Excellence Award.
- Gammon hosted the Ebony Exploration Event for 75 young adults under the age of 35. The students explored their sense of call and vocational discernment.
- In December 2024, Gammon celebrated our 141st Founder's Day and Pastors and Leaders Conference. We hosted over three hundred people attending workshops (in person and virtual) and our Scholarship Gala Dinner at IMPACT Church in Atlanta, GA.
- Gammon received two \$10,000 donations for two new endowed funds from Dr. James H. Salley, in honor of his parents in the South Carolina Conference, and from Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen, District Superintendent for the North Georgia Central North District.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Dr. Candace M. Lewis

President - CEO

# GARRET EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Report to the Annual Conference, 2024-2025

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary continues to live into its mission of *Forming courageous leaders in the way of Jesus to cultivate communities of justice, compassion, and hope...for the thriving of the Church and the healing of the world.* We do this work in partnership with the annual conferences of the United Methodist Church and other partners who share our values. Now in our 172<sup>nd</sup> year of ministry to the church, the academy, and the world, Garrett is a strong, growing, thriving community of faith and learning that represents the fullness of the global church's witness.

During this past academic year, Garrett welcomed its largest entering class in over a decade for a fifth straight year, with 135 new students, and a current enrollment of 324 students representing 38 states and 24 nations from across the globe. We continue to see growth in our student body from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, adding to an already richly diverse student body. While our denominational diversity also continues to grow, we also proudly welcomed growth in our United Methodist students who constitute more than half of our student body. Our faculty also reflect this regional and global diversity, with fully half originating from nations outside the United States.

Our growth in recent years continues to reflect patterns seen across theological education, mainly in distance and online learners. For the first time in our history, distance learners in the entering class outnumbered residential students. This has allowed for truly global learning spaces that have enriched our conversations and our overall learning environment. We're blessed to have the world represented in our classrooms, which also impacts how our faculty teach, what they research, and for whom.

Over the last year Garrett has also been blessed by multiple major grants to fund faculty research and institutional priorities. A major grant is funding the work of our Center for Ecological Regeneration, allowing the seminary to partner with local congregations in the Midwest to equip them to respond to climate change in their communities and the disproportionate impact it tends to have on the poor and local economies. Another major grant is funding work in our Centro Raices Latinas to strengthen Hispanic-Latiné pastoral leaders and congregations, helping clergy and communities build institutional capacity and expand their ministries. Yet another grant is helping to expand the reach and impact of our Garrett Collective, our lifelong learning and resource platform that seeks to make theological education accessible and affordable to a significantly broader audience.

Garrett's world-class faculty continue developing curricular innovations that are responsive to the church's growing needs, while also contributing a significant body of scholarly work to their respective fields. They are also partnering with annual conferences and local churches in delivering much needed programming for leadership development and faith formation, an expanding focus of our Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships division. Garrett is proud to be a United Methodist institution, and proud to continue to deepen its partnership and programming with annual conferences around the globe.



**Seminario Teológico Evangélico Garrett**  
Informe a la Conferencia Anual  
2024-2025

El Seminario Teológico Evangélico Garrett sigue cumpliendo su misión de formar líderes valientes que siguen el camino de Jesús para cultivar comunidades de justicia, compasión y esperanza... para el florecimiento de la Iglesia y la sanación del mundo. Hacemos este trabajo en asociación con las conferencias anuales de la Iglesia Metodista Unida y otros compañeros en misión que comparten nuestros valores. Ahora en nuestro 172.º año de ministerio para la iglesia, la academia y el mundo, Garrett es una comunidad de fe y aprendizaje fuerte, en crecimiento y próspera que representa la plenitud del testimonio de la iglesia global.

Durante el último año académico, Garrett dio la bienvenida a su clase entrante más grande en más de una década por quinto año consecutivo, con 135 nuevos estudiantes y una matrícula actual de 324 estudiantes que representan a 38 estados y 24 naciones de todo el mundo. Seguimos viendo un crecimiento en nuestro cuerpo estudiantil proveniente de Asia, África y América Latina, que se suma a un cuerpo estudiantil ya muy diverso. Si bien nuestra diversidad denominacional también sigue creciendo, también recibimos con orgullo el crecimiento de nuestros estudiantes metodistas unidos, que constituyen más de la mitad de nuestro cuerpo estudiantil. Nuestro cuerpo docente también refleja esta diversidad regional y global, ya que la mitad proviene de países fuera de los Estados Unidos.

Nuestro crecimiento en los últimos años sigue reflejando patrones observados en todas partes de la educación teológica, principalmente en los estudiantes a distancia y en línea. Por primera vez en nuestra historia, los estudiantes a distancia en la clase entrante superaron en número a los estudiantes residenciales. Esto ha permitido espacios de aprendizaje verdaderamente globales que han enriquecido nuestras conversaciones y nuestro entorno de aprendizaje. Tenemos la suerte de tener al mundo representado en nuestras aulas, lo que también impacta la forma en que nuestro cuerpo docente enseña, qué investiga y para quién.

Durante el último año, Garrett también ha sido bendecido con múltiples subvenciones importantes para financiar la investigación del cuerpo docente y nuestras prioridades institucionales. Una importante subvención está financiando el trabajo de nuestro Centro para la Regeneración Ecológica, lo que permite al seminario asociarse con congregaciones locales para equiparlas para responder al cambio climático y los impactos ecológicos que tiene en las comunidades y economías locales. Otra subvención importante está financiando el trabajo en nuestro Centro Raíces Latinas para fortalecer a los líderes pastorales y las congregaciones hispanas, ayudando al clero y a las comunidades a desarrollar capacidad institucional y expandir sus ministerios. Otra subvención está ayudando a expandir el alcance y el impacto de nuestro Garrett Collective, nuestra plataforma de aprendizaje y recursos para individuos y organizaciones que busca llevar la educación teológica a una audiencia significativamente más amplia.

La facultad de Garrett continúa desarrollando innovaciones curriculares que responden a las crecientes necesidades de la iglesia, al mismo tiempo que contribuye con investigaciones académicas en sus respectivos área de especialización. También están caminando con conferencias anuales e iglesias locales para ofrecer programación muy necesaria para el desarrollo del liderazgo y la formación en fe, un área de enfoque en crecimiento del seminario. Garrett se enorgullece de ser una institución Metodista Unida y de continuar profundizando su compañerismo y programación con conferencias anuales en todo el mundo.

# GLOBAL MINISTRIES TEAM

## Global Ministries Team Report to Annual Conference

The Global Ministries Team focuses on three areas: Missions, Social Justice, and Health Ministries. In 2024, the following things were accomplished:

- Educational materials from the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society were distributed at Annual Conference and our table display included information about the missionaries supported by our Eastern Pennsylvania Churches, including our missionaries in Tanzania who visited this year, plus the Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership, which we support along with the Peninsula Delaware Conference.
- Applications for Conference Advance Special status were received and a resolution was prepared for Annual Conference to approve the following groups to be authorized to contact churches requesting support: The Center-Philadelphia at Arch Street UMC; Code Blue in Norristown; Cokesbury UMC's Summer Lunch & Learn Program; Liberia Education Project of Somerton UMC; Light of Marnie supporting SHALOCA Christian Academy in Liberia; LUMINA; Spiritual Renewal Ministries; and Wesley Foundation of Philadelphia serving Drexel University students through the Open Door Christian Community.
- Itinerating missionaries, Rev. Mutwale Wa Mushidi and his wife Kabaka Alphonsine who serve in Tanzania, were hosted for 2 weeks in EPC and transported to 9 places to share the story of their mission work.
- A course on mission work called "Meet Your Missionaries" was prepared for the South and East District Tools for Ministry. It included a presentation by the itinerating missionaries from Tanzania, with Mutwale sharing about new church starts and pastor training and Kabaka sharing about the pre-school education of orphans and ministries with women that include teaching skills to enable them to support their families.
- Peace with Justice Sunday observances and offerings were promoted and information about Peace with Justice grants that were awarded was shared in the display at Annual Conference.
- Abundant Health Coordinator meetings with folks from around the country were attended via zoom and information from those meetings was shared at Annual Conference to promote the development of health ministries in churches.
- At the fall zoom meeting of the Global Ministries Team, discussion was held about how to work with and support the Rapid Response Team on Immigration in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Deaconess Barbara Drake, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

# IMPLICIT BIAS REVIEW

## EPA Implicit Bias Review Team Report

EPA committed in 1996 to end the sin of racism and continues to work toward this vision. Along with the adoption of *Dismantling Racism: A Path Towards Wholeness* at the 2022 Annual Conference, EPA courageously agreed to minister and work together to dismantle racism within EPA and "create a more racially just, inclusive, and equitable church by carrying out *A Path Toward Wholeness*." (Resolution 2022-07, EPA Annual Conference Journal) This commitment extends to our clergy, laity, and the people we serve in our communities. In this regard, reviewing EPA's policies, procedures, and all legislations and reports presented to the Annual Conference is a critical part of this mission to end the sin of racism.

This project was conducted by the Connectional Ministry team, with the review process led by the Commission on Religion and Race (CoRR), the Committee on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team, the Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM), the Committee on Latino Ministries, and the Committee on Disability Concerns.

This marks the second time the Implicit Bias Review (IBR) team has conducted an implicit bias review for the Annual Conference reports and legislations. As the team continues to refine and strengthen the review process, we remain committed to deepening our understanding of Implicit Bias and its potential impact on fostering a more inclusive and equitable Annual Conference.

### **Process:**

After the reports and legislation were submitted to the Conference Secretary and Connectional Ministry, these documents were delivered to the Implicit Bias Review Team. The team then held a meeting to establish the boundaries of our work and confirm the review process and procedures. Each document was reviewed by at least three members of the team for cross-reading.

After the review process, the team discussed their recommendations and comments, and the documents with feedback were returned to the original authors. Once the authors revised their documents in line with the recommendations and comments, they submitted the final versions for printing.

Our main focus was to ensure that the reports, legislations, and resolutions do not contain implicit or explicit bias, discrimination, or language that undermines diversity and inclusion, in line with our commitment to *A Path Toward Wholeness*.

### **Recommendations for the Upcoming Year:**

We strongly encourage all written documents for the Annual Conference to align with the commitment laid out in *Dismantling Racism: A Path Toward Wholeness*. These documents should reflect professionalism, ethical standards, and respect for diversity and inclusion.

#### **1. Implicit Bias Education:**

There is a self-study course offered by the General Commission on Religion and Race

(GCoRR). If educational opportunities are needed, please use this resource to gain a better understanding of the impact of Implicit Bias.

2. **Inclusive Language:**

Implicit Bias is not only embedded in the words used in documents, but also in the tone set for the potential readers. For example, when using acronyms, please provide the full name first so that readers feel included. Ensure that all language used in documents reflects respect and inclusivity. Avoid terminology that could be considered offensive, exclusionary, or inappropriate. This includes refraining from the use of derogatory terms, culturally insensitive language, or any expressions that may perpetuate stereotypes or biases.

3. **Leadership (Nominations) Report:**

This year's leadership (nominations) report did not provide sufficient demographic information for each committee or entity regarding the newly nominated individuals. Thus, we recommend that the committee consider incorporating aggregate demographic information for each entity in future reports. This will allow the Conference to reflect its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

4. **Professionalism:**

Please thoroughly review your documents before submission. Use available resources, either human or online, to cross-read your documents for grammatical and spelling errors, as well as to ensure clarity for readers. While the IBR team's focus is on implicit bias language, we also offer extra comments to help improve the overall quality of the documents. Please be mindful of these additional suggestions to improve the professionalism of your submission.

5. **Adherence to Deadlines:**

It is crucial to meet your report due date. Given the limited timeline, the review team dedicates significant time and effort to review reports and legislation that are submitted late. Please ensure that you check the due dates and follow the established process cycle.

We deeply appreciate your dedication and passion for this important mission as One Body of Christ Jesus.

This report was written in collaboration with all members of the Implicit Bias Review Team and is respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Revere, Stacey Jones Anderson, Co-Chairs, the Commission on Religion and Race  
Debra Coulbourn, Chair, the Committee on the Status and Role of Women  
David Brown, Mert Shane, Co-Chairs, Healing the Wounds of Racism Core Accountability Team  
Barbara Revere, Verna Colliver, Co-Chairs, the Committee on Native American Ministry  
Alicia Julia-Stanley, Lisa DePaz, Co-Chairs, the Committee on Latino Ministries  
Monica Guepet, Theresa Yorgey, Co-Chairs, the Committee on Disability Concerns  
Advisory: Dawn Taylor-Storm, Noe Gabe Lopez, Sean Lee

# LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND MORAVIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



## Our Collaboration

Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary operate as partners within Moravian University, deeply rooted in our individual histories and shaped by our shared commitments.

## Our Mission

Lancaster Theological Seminary's mission is to educate and nurture leaders to join in God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish. Rooted in the Moravian heritage of ecumenism and service, Moravian Theological Seminary welcomes students preparing to serve in diverse socioeconomic, intercultural, and interfaith contexts.

## Our Commitments

The core commitments that shape our work in curriculum development, teaching, worship, and common life (<https://www.moravianseminary.edu/about/mission-and-values>):

- We honor the heritage of both Moravian and Lancaster seminaries, including the distinctive ways in which each school expresses ecumenical and interfaith diversity.
- We aspire to build learning communities in which every person experiences agency and belonging.
- We affirm that diversity of all kinds benefits our common learning and personal formation.
- We strive to build a community life marked by love of God and neighbor, expressed in life that is respectful of all races and nationalities, anti-racist, open and affirming toward LGBTQIA+ persons, and accessible to all.
- We promote deep engagement with Christian traditions and other spiritual heritages, with openness to diverse expressions and emerging perspectives. We value critical reflection on self, society, church, and faith.
- We promote a community that involves the whole person: understanding, practicing, and being.

The joint faculty of Lancaster Seminary and Moravian Seminary shares a common Master of Divinity curriculum. It is one of several exciting degree and certificate programs we offer.

## Master of Divinity (MDiv 78 credits)

Become a spiritual leader for your community and the world. Deepen your understanding of your faith and the faith of others. Get first-hand experience in spiritual leadership. Prepare to serve and lead in various religious, spiritual, and nonprofit careers. Our MDiv meets many denominations' requirements for ordination as well as requirements for doctoral-level studies.

### **Master of Ministry (MMin 48 credits)**

Seeking deeper theological reflection on the practice of ministry but don't require a Master of Divinity degree? Our program is for new or continued ministry, grounded in the traditional disciplines of biblical studies, theology, history, ethics, and integrated with skills needed for leadership, individual and community formation, and spiritual care.

### **Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS 48 credits)**

Go deep into your understanding of religious belief. Our MATS program provides a strong theological foundation for church leadership or advanced academic work. Tailor the program to your needs. Complete a capstone project that allows you to delve deep into an area that drives your curiosity.

### **Master of Arts in Chaplaincy (MACh 72 credits)**. Offered at Moravian Seminary.

Are you called to care for others? Our Master of Arts in Chaplaincy program prepares you to work in public service, prisons, health and hospice care, and in educational and corporate settings. The program combines in-depth academic work with practical application to ensure you are ready for the field.

### **Doctor of Ministry (DMin 30 credits)**. Offered at Lancaster Seminary.

Integrate theological reflection with your ongoing practice of ministry. You'll blend convenient online coursework with powerful on-campus intensive courses one week each semester. Devote your last year to completing your major project and final presentation.

### **Certificate Programs**

Stand-alone or add them to your degree program:

- Certificate in Anglican Studies
- Certificate in Theological Studies
- Certificate in Biblical Studies
- Certificate in Formative Spirituality
- Certificate in Spiritual Direction – two years
- Certificate in Spiritual Direction Intensive – one year

### **Tuition Sharing Program**

Contact our Joint Seminary Enrollment & Financial Aid office for details:

<https://www.moravianseminary.edu/admissions/connect-with-us>.

The United Methodist Church, the various annual conferences, and its congregations are wonderful partners in this seminary journey of preparing faith leaders to join in God's liberative and redemptive work so that all creation may flourish.

Submitted by

the Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens

Director of United Methodist Studies

Lancaster Theological Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary

Moravian University

# LATINO COMMISSION

## Latino Commission - Annual Report - 2024

The Latino Commission of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's mission is to empower and equip our churches for effective ministry, growth, and discipleship. In 2024, our focus has been on providing valuable training, fostering collaboration, and strengthening community engagement to build a vibrant, faith-filled Church.

### Key Highlights of 2024

#### Training and Education

This year, the Latino Commission concentrated on essential training areas to enhance ministry effectiveness, including:

- **Government of Local Churches**
- **Safe Sanctuary in Spanish**
- **Introduction to Making Proposals**
- **Reaching the Community through the "See, Judge, and Act" Model**

These trainings have been pivotal in equipping our churches with the necessary tools for impactful ministry, nurturing faith, and forming disciples.

#### Holy Convocation and Pastoral Retreat

Our annual Holy Convocation and Pastoral Retreat provided significant moments of:

- **Fellowship** – Strengthening relationships among clergy and congregations.
- **Collaboration** – Sharing ideas and best practices for church growth.
- **Spiritual Refreshment** – Renewing our commitment to faith and service.

These gatherings ensure that our congregations are not isolated but united in celebrating God's work in their communities.

#### Expansion in the Lebanon Area

In 2024, we celebrated the birth of a new faith community in Lebanon. The birth of this new faith community was possible through the collaborative efforts of:

- Rev. Brunilda Martínez, Pastor of the Covenant Church
- DS. Jennie Freymoyer, who provided her blessing and support
- Joaquín de Jesús, who took on a pastoral leadership role

This expansion has helped fill the gap left by the disaffiliation of Nuevo Nacimiento Church, ensuring continued spiritual support in the area.

#### Identifying and Recruiting Transformational Leaders

A key focus has been the **identification and training** of future leaders for ministry. Currently;

- **Three individuals** are undergoing training to become Certified Lay Ministers and Christ Servant Ministers. Under the guidance of their pastors, they have completed

- the Orientation to the Ministry Training and are prepared for the next steps through the Eastern Pennsylvania Ministry of Laity training program.
- Four **local pastors** continue their theological and ministry studies through the Course of Study (COS) program.

## **Collaboration with the Greater New Jersey Conference**

We celebrate strengthening bonds with our siblings in the Greater New Jersey Conference. This partnership has fostered:

- **Stronger friendships and teamwork.**
- **Collaborative planning and training initiatives.**
- **The sharing of gifts and talents.**

These efforts are helping to expand God's Kingdom and create a more unified ministry.

## **Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond**

With hearts open to God's presence, we remain committed to moving forward despite any challenges. We trust in God's control and the unwavering support of our Conference siblings, colleagues, and friends.

As we step into 2025, we embrace the opportunities ahead, continuing to advance God's Kingdom, support our churches, and cultivate transformational leadership.

**Together, we press forward in faith, unity, and service.**



# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PREACHING INSTITUTE

## Leadership Academy Preaching Institute (LAPI) *Conference Report for EPA & GNJ 2025*

**Bring your preaching to the next level!** Applications for the 2026 LAPI cohort are open May–July 2025. **Apply Now!** <https://www.epaumc.org/lapi/> OR <https://www.gnjumc.org/lapi/>.

### **What is LAPI?**

LAPI is a hybrid lifelong learning program for ordained clergy, commissioned clergy, local pastors, lay preachers, and congregational leaders. The program is designed for preachers of all levels of experience to cultivate compelling preaching that leads to congregational vitality.

### **What to Expect**

LAPI fellows focus on honing their craft alongside exceptional preachers, instructors, and intergenerational cohorts. LAPI fellows set their own preaching goals and are supported through a 10-month cohort experience. During the program, LAPI preaching fellows commit to:

- ⇒ Attend an in-person two-day preaching summit hosted by LAPI
- ⇒ Participate in a cohort of 8–12 preachers, meeting monthly via video conference, facilitated by a LAPI preaching coach.
- ⇒ Learn through asynchronous online courses designed especially for the LAPI program. Courses include:
  - “Sacred Listening and Appreciative Critique” taught by the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade
  - “Imaginative Preaching” taught by the Rev. Dr. Jake Myers
  - “Context and Community” taught by the Rev. Olu Brown
  - And more!
- ⇒ Create a listener feedback group in your ministry setting. Listeners will be trained on providing constructive feedback; preachers will be trained on receiving constructive feedback.
- ⇒ Receive constructive feedback from a LAPI preaching coach and cohort peers.

### **Project Updates**

In September 2023, the Eastern Pennsylvania & Greater New Jersey Annual Conferences (“EPA&GNJ”) received a \$1.25 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to fund the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute (LAPI), 2024–2027.

During 2024, LAPI gathered data through surveys of listeners and preachers and focus groups of preachers to assess needs within the conferences. In September 2024, 50 LAPI fellows were selected from 89 applicants for the 2025 LAPI cohort (February–November). Nine experienced preachers were chosen as coaches and facilitators for the cohort groups.

The 2025 LAPI Preaching Summit met March 7–8 at Jarretstown UMC. Preachers included the Rev. Ronell Howard and the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade. Dr. Schade also taught a workshop on “Sacred Listening and Appreciative Critique.”

Applications for the 2026 LAPI cohort opened May 1, 2025.

## **LAPI Goals**

1. The 10-month certificate program will be offered three times, once annually in 2025, 2026, and 2027.
2. Over the course of those three years, total engagement goals in the program include:
  - 250 LAPI Fellows, including clergy and lay preachers
  - 1000 laity from 250 congregations participating in Collaborative Preaching Workgroups and online LAPI courses
  - 25 trained clergy coaches
  - An additional 125 laity leaders engaging in online courses offered through LAPI
  - An additional 125 ordained, commissioned, licensed, and lay preachers engaging in online courses offered through LAPI.

## **Anticipated Outcomes**

LAPI promotes proclamation and holy listening through the development of collaborative preaching practices. This multi-year initiative within EPA & GNJ promises to contribute to a renewed ethos of faithful and compelling preaching within United Methodism.

Preachers and listeners will be empowered and equipped in the following ways:

- Preachers will cultivate practices and develop skills that enable them to engage congregations, both in-person and online, in compelling ways that lead to measurable congregational vitality.
- Preachers will become more adept at delivering sermons that effectively reach more diverse listening communities, including cross-generational and cross-cultural/cross-racial listeners.
- Preachers will view the craft of preaching not as having a goal of “arrival,” but one that requires ongoing reflection and lifelong learning as they adapt their practice to various contexts, seasons of ministry, and the demands of a hurting world in need of the gospel.
- Preachers will learn how to incorporate the practice of listening and watching sermons from other preachers (as well as their own) in order to develop their own skills and strategies in the pulpit.
- Listeners will cultivate practices and develop skills that enable them to provide timely, honest, thoughtful, and insightful feedback, leading to more effective preaching.
- Preachers and listeners will have a clearer understanding of the role of preaching in the life of the church and its direct impact on congregational vitality.
- Preachers and listeners will learn how to work together to develop preaching that is relevant to their specific context, speaks to the needs of their community, and provides a true reflection of the all-welcoming reign of God.

Congregations will be empowered and equipped to make the Word of God come alive in their contexts through faithful participation in the preaching event—as listeners, discerners, conversation partners, and proclaimers of the gospel.

Mary Cranwell, LAPI Coordinator

The Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens, LAPI Director

# NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

## EPA Committee on Native American Ministries (CoNAM) Report to 2025 Annual Conference

EPA CoNAM is dedicated to our mission “to raise awareness of the history, traditions and contributions of Native Americans in our churches and communities” as stated in our brochure. (Available at [www.epaumc.org/conam](http://www.epaumc.org/conam))

CoNAM meets monthly on Zoom and communicates with Local church Representatives for NA Ministry through emails. With no Native American churches within the boundaries of Eastern PA Conference, EPA CoNAM collaborated with GNJ CoNAM in support of St. John UMC, Bridgeton NJ, partnered with GNJ on the creation of a Land Acknowledgement video for the Annual Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference, and helped churches to develop their own land acknowledgements. EPA CoNAM also worked with GNJ CoNAM on plans to host the 2024 NEJNAMC 2024 Annual Meeting which included researching the history of Native Americans within the EPA Conference area.

EPA CoNAM actively supports and participates in the Northeast Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee (NEJNAMC). EPA CoNAM prepared to co-host with GNJ the in-person Annual Meeting of the NEJNAMC in the fall of 2024. When the Executive Committee decided to have a virtual business meeting instead, EPA CoNAM participated in the GNJ CoNAM Annual Winter Gear Giveaway and potluck meal at St. John UMC where the in-person meeting had been scheduled to take place.

EPA CoNAM partners with Circle Legacy Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and empowering Native Americans, and through this partnership we advocate for the Carlisle Indian School Project and legislation for the Truth and Healing Commission which focuses on the boarding school issue as it relates to Federal Indian Boarding Schools as well as church-run institutions, including the Methodist Church.

To fulfill our mission statement, our key emphases are education on the history, tradition and contributions of Native Americans and advocacy on issues that impact their lives today. In the past year we have done this in a variety of ways:

- Three requested presentations of our Loss of Turtle Island interactive exercise
- Workshops at District Tools for Ministry
- Financial support for mission trips to NA communities
- Resolution to advocate for legislation to protect voting rights for Native Americans
- Table display at Annual Conference with resources and information handouts
- Program at Camp Innabah with a Native American youth leader as guest speaker
- Home From School Documentary available for screening on request to CoNAM
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day Philly

EPA CoNAM is funded by the Native American Ministries Special Sunday Offering and additional donations and fundraisers help us to continue our important mission to raise awareness of Native American issues and to be in ministry with our Native American brothers and sisters.

# ORDER OF DEACONESSES/HOME MISSIONERS

Report of the Order of Deaconess/Home Missioner (DHM)  
Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, May 2025  
[Celebrating 137 Years of Love, Justice & Service](#)

## Our movement<sup>1</sup>

The earliest known usage of the term deaconess comes from Paul's letter to the Romans, when he wrote: "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cencreae, that you may receive her in the Lord as befits the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well" (Romans 16:1-2). The Methodist deaconess movement in the United States began when Lucy Rider Meyer and her husband started the first deaconess training school in Chicago in 1885. In 1888, the Office of Deaconess was officially recognized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the office has remained active ever since. Methodist deaconesses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are credited with starting schools and hospitals in communities where they did not previously exist, and the need for such ministries was great. Deaconesses often worked under harsh conditions and in cutting-edge ministries of social service on behalf of women, children and youth. They were courageous and set the path for many institutions in social service around the country today. Deaconesses and Home Missioners continue this legacy of serving in cutting edge ministries of love, justice and service today. We serve in a variety of ministry settings including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy and social service.

At the General Conference in 1988, when the category of home missionary was eliminated in The United Methodist Church, there was no place for laity who identify as men to live out a recognized calling to lifetime service. This led to the establishment of the home missioner category of service, the equivalent to deaconesses, at the 2004 General Conference. Legislation was passed at General Conference 2016 to make the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner an official order within The United Methodist Church. The Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner is one of three orders of ministry in The United Methodist Church serving alongside the orders of Elder and Deacon and is the only order for laity. Deaconesses and Home Missioners feel called by God to a full-time vocation in service with those who are marginalized and in need in the world today.

"Deaconesses and Home Missioners function through diverse forms of service directed toward the world to make Jesus Christ known in the fullness of God's ministry and mission, which mandate followers to:

- a) Alleviate suffering
- b) Eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth
- c) Facilitate the development of full human potential
- d) Share in the building global community through the church universal." <sup>2</sup>

## Our Ministries Vary. Our Call to Service Binds Us.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference has 6 active Deaconesses serving under appointment and 1 Deaconess in retired relationship. We serve in a variety of ministry settings including health/wellness, law, education, advocacy and social service. Our ministries vary but our call to love, justice and service binds us as a covenant community.

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<sup>1</sup> [Adapted in part from an article appearing on Resource UMC by Deaconess Amanda Mountain](#)

<sup>2</sup> 2020 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church Paragraph 1913.1

*"I transitioned from Hospital Chaplaincy work to part time Mental Health Therapist with Grief/Bereavement specialty for Catholic Charities of Lancaster, PA. I serve as a Disaster Spiritual Care volunteer for the American Red Cross Central Chapter. It is a joy to serve in our conference. I hold membership at Covenant UMC in Lancaster." Deaconess Yvette Diaz, West District*

*"I serve as a nurse with Bayada Pediatrics in Lancaster, Pennsylvania." I provide nursing care at home and in school for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities who also have complex medical needs. By providing this care, it is then possible for the child to attend school and/or for mom and dad or caregivers to have a break from constant caregiving. I love my job and I love providing comfort, dignity, and love to each child and family with whom I work. I serve as the United Women in Faith West District President and co-chair of Adult Ministry and Worship at my home church, Lampeter UMC. " Deaconess Barbara Skarbowski, West District*

*"I serve as parish nurse at Havertown UMC, providing health education, blood pressure screening, and promotion of health of body, mind, and spirit. I am also the lay leader of the church. For the EPC, I serve as Conference Secretary of Global Ministries and chair of the Global Ministries Team which focuses on missionary support, advance special giving, abundant health, and social justice efforts through the Peace with Justice grants." Deaconess Barbara Drake, South District*

*"I am Founder and CEO of [Fosgail LLC](#), a benefit company that combines creativity with care for individuals and communities to provide bespoke coaching and consulting services that respond to emerging needs. From our native discipline as theological librarians, we support a variety of clients across disciplines and sectors who seek to flourish amid change. We offer leadership development programs, one-on-one executive coaching, strategic visioning and integrated library planning, and library assessment consulting. We also offer change management support for libraries and organizations wanting to improve their impact on society and communities. I am also Editor-in-Chief of Books@Atla Open Press, the open access books publisher of the American Theological Library Association. I serve on the Program Advisory Group of United Women in Faith and am the Archivist for the National Association of Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Home Missionaries." Deaconess Myka Kennedy Stephens, West District*

*"I serve as the Executive Director of the Center-Philadelphia at Arch Street UMC in Philadelphia. The Center serves our unhoused/unsheltered neighbors as a daytime drop-in center offering health/wellness, harm reduction supplies, healthy meals, hygiene, case management and housing assessments. In 2025 we offered more than 31,000 separate services and distributed more than 23,000 items from our clothing closet. We advocate for systemic changes at the city, state and federal level for policies that make justice a reality in our community and beyond. I also serve as the Vice-Chair of the National Association of Deaconesses, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries supporting and advocating for our order in The United Methodist Church." Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck, East District*

The United Methodist Deaconess movement is a founding member of the worldwide ecumenical diaconal movement called DIAKONIA. DIAKONIA offers an international and ecumenical community of diaconal friendship, connecting us in diversity and commonality. DIAKONIA broadens our worldview and deepens our sense of diaconal vocation. DIAKONIA reminds the church of God's call to service, justice, compassion, and peace for creation, and assists us in living out our ministries in the world with vision and hope. Diakonia is organized into three regions. In the summer of 2023 the ecumenical diaconate gathered in Minneapolis for our quadrennial regional gathering of the Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC).

In November of 2024 about 100 members of our community gathered as an order through our association (The National Association of Deaconesses, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries - NADHM) at the historic Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville to learn, dream, worship and advocate in community under the spiritual leadership of Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth. This July the DIAKONIA World Federation of which our order is a founding member will gather for a world-wide assembly in Moshi, Tanzania. **The order of Deaconess and Home Missioners meets virtually weekly for spiritual support, held 4 in-person and 7 virtual discernment events, facilitated intersectional justice education training events, met for advent and lenten studies and consecrated 27 new Deaconesses and Home Missioners while recognizing 4 transferring Deaconesses from the Philippines.**

#### **Is this the Call for you?**

Is this a Call for you? If so, there is an opportunity to be a part of a supportive community in relationship with The United Methodist Church as a deaconess or home missioner. Discernment Events are held at various times throughout the year. The Deaconess/Home Missioner Discernment event is an opportunity to explore God's call to vocational ministry. **If this calling is for you or someone you know, we want to hear from you!**

**Website:** <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/deaconess-and-home-missioner/>

**Email:** [deaconess@uwfaith.org](mailto:deaconess@uwfaith.org) , **Call:** 1-332-240-3898

Respectfully Submitted,

Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck on behalf of the Deaconesses of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

# ORDER OF DEACONS

## Report of the Order of Deacons

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church

For the 2025 EPA Journal

Submitted by Darryl W. Stephens, chair

### Full Sacramental Authority

General Conference 2020/2024 amended ¶ 328 of the *Book of Discipline* by granting deacons full sacramental authority. No longer requiring the permission of their bishop, deacons may exercise their own discernment about when and where it is contextually appropriate to preside over the sacraments. Deacons will continue to assist elders and licensed pastors with the sacraments in shared ministry contexts. A discussion of best practices is attached as an addendum to this report.

### Deacons' Ministry Highlights

The ministry of the diaconate is unique to each person. These are some blessings and joys of ministry by deacons of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in their own words:

“My ministry as a chaplain to the elderly has grown to include bringing a therapy dog along with me to visits.” —Rev. Deb Neild

“My joy is being able to train chaplains across the country and abroad in different settings via CIPP CPE Center of the GBHEM, hugely contributing to all UMC conferences across the country who are now requiring a CPE unit in order to be ordained: Surely the world is my parish.” —Rev. Dr. Chaplain Christinah Kwaramba

“I consulted with several Conferences this past hurricane season and responded locally to Hurricane Helene.”—Rev. Greg Ellis

“We in Civic & Community Engagement at William & Mary (in Williamsburg, VA) launched a new program bringing students to serve as AmeriCorps members, offering social-emotional mentoring to young people in Head Start and middle school.”—Rev. Melody Porter

“Due to my firsthand experience raising children with mental health concerns, I have been able to connect with many students and families in the online learning program I serve, extending compassion as they share about their struggles and equipping them with resources to be successful.”—Rev. Tiffany Manning

“We launched a new day camp program for the Summer of 2024 at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat center with over 200-day campers from our local community learning about God’s grace and exploring the outdoors unplugged!”—Rev. Carmen O’Shea

“In 2024, I expanded my role as Assistant Dean of Community and Communication at the Klein College of Media and Communication at Temple University to include being selected to serve as Executive Director of the Civic Coalition to Save Lives, which has played a significant role in reducing gun violence deaths in the City of Philadelphia.”—Rev. Dr. David W. Brown

“I’m a hospital chaplain, substitute teacher with Germantown Friends and Greene St Friends Schools, and climate volunteer at C.W. Henry School, as well as advisory committee member for Heeding God’s Call to end gun violence.”—Rev. Nikki Kleinberg

“I have been hired for a new Outreach Minister position at St. Luke UMC, a position created to integrate congregational care with a need to expand inclusivity toward the neurodivergent and disability communities in the Bryn Mawr area.”—Rev. Brittany Whyte

“I am currently enjoying retirement but also continuing in volunteer service as a chaplain at Simpson House and working with the Christ Servant Ministers at Sayers Memorial UMC.”—Rev. Stephanie Brown Wilson

“Highlights of my year in ministry included directing the Leadership Academy Preaching Institute and publishing two books, *Reckoning Methodism* and *Diaconal Studies*.”—Rev. Dr. Darryl W. Stephens

“In my retirement, I have been pursuing volunteer opportunities at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility and at Chestnut Street Community Center in downtown Lebanon, teaching English as a Second Language.”—Rev. Lisa Flory

### **Free Book**

*Diaconal Studies: Lived Theology for the Church in North America*, edited by Darryl W. Stephens and Craig L. Nesson (Oxford: Regnum Books International, 2024), is available open access <<https://darrylwstephens.com/diaconal-studies/diaconal-studies-the-book/>>. This project was supported by grants from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Open access publication was made possible in part by financial support from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church. The book comes with a study guide and is appropriate for use in congregations and book groups.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darryl W. Stephens  
Chair, Order of Deacons



## ***Addendum to Report of the Order of Deacons***

### **Best Practices for Deacons When Presiding at the Sacraments**

An overview of the history and practices for deacons in The United Methodist Church when presiding over the sacraments was created collaboratively by chairs of the Order of Deacons across the connection in consultation with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry immediately following the 2020/2024 General Conference to bring clarification to the practical implications. The following is an edited version of this document.

### ***History of Deacons Presiding at the Sacraments***

Fulfilling his call as a deacon, Philip extended the apostles' ministries when he baptized an Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). This is the first biblical example of deacons extending the sacramental life of the church by presiding at a baptism. Today, the ministry of the deacon has evolved to a full and equal order in the life of the Church. When deacons were granted sacramental authority in the *Book of Discipline 2012*, it was initially limited to the deacon's appointment setting and was at the discretion of their bishop. This was so they could better respond to their call to diaconal ministries on behalf of the Church. The appointment restriction was removed in the *Book of Discipline 2016*, in which deacons, at the discretion of their bishops, were allowed to preside at the sacraments when and where it was contextually appropriate, most often when elders were unavailable.

The 2017–2020 Study of Ministry Commission Report <<https://www.gbhem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ADCA-English-Vol-2-Sec-2-SOM-c.pdf>> yoked sacramental authority for deacons (and elders) to their ordination. Based on this Report, a petition was submitted to General Conference 2020/2024 supporting the understanding that the ordained have sacramental authority not limited to their appointment and not requiring special permission from their bishop. General Conference voted 65% in favor of this change (May 2, 2024, Calendar item 554). As of January 1, 2025, ordained deacons may exercise their own discernment about when and where it is contextually appropriate to preside over the sacraments, within and beyond their appointment.

### ***Sacramental Responsibilities within Diaconal Ministries***

“The Ministry of a Deacon,” ¶ 328 in the *Book of Discipline 2020/2024*, states deacons “are authorized by the Church, and ordained by a bishop” to carry out a variety of ministerial activities and leadership duties including presiding at the sacraments so they may fulfill their call to their diaconal ministry on behalf of the Church. This paragraph applies to provisional, ordained and retired deacons. When deacons preside at the sacraments it is typically defined by their diaconal ministry, whether it is a one-time or on-going need. Provisional deacons, as well as provisional elders, are commissioned to practice ministry in their appointment settings (¶ 326.1), which is similar to licensed local pastors who are licensed to practice ministry in their appointment setting. As ordained clergy, both deacons (¶ 328) and elders (¶ 332) share in the responsibility of leading and serving the Church, including presiding over the sacraments.

### ***Assisting the Elder with the Sacraments in a Shared Ministry Context***

The *Discipline* (¶ 328) states that “Deacon’s give leadership in the Church’s life,” in part, by “assisting the elders in administering the sacraments,” thus indicating deacons have sacramental responsibility in their shared ministry context even when not presiding. When the sacraments are needed for a shared ministry, the deacon should continue to work with the lead pastor in these arrangements. Collegial agreements for the deacon to preside when the lead pastor is unavailable and/or because of the deacon’s ministry are considered part of the deacon’s assistance.

### ***The Use of Discernment When Presiding***

Historically, the deacon has a unique relationship with their bishop, like in Philippians 1:1, where deacons and their ministries extend their bishop’s presence in the world through their diaconal ministry. Thus,

many deacons do not always serve alongside elders. Part of the deacon's ministry is to offer the means of grace to the world. As of January 1, 2025, deacons have the responsibility to decide if and when the sacraments are contextually appropriate, whether it is for a one-time or an on-going ministry need (§ 328).

Deacons may consider the following questions when discerning when to administer the sacraments:

1. Is there an elder present and able and willing to preside?
2. How will administering the sacraments be equitable and open to persons when sharing the means of grace in the ministry context? Who might be missing from the Table?
3. What ways might presiding at the sacraments convey welcoming, inclusion, and/or healing for persons and their relationships with the Church and with God?
4. Is this sacramental opportunity in the local church or beyond the local church? How does this connect with the Church's wider ministry and its overall mission?
5. Does the sacramental opportunity to preside align with a Wesleyan understanding of the sacraments (theologically, in social holiness, and in practice)?
6. How might people experience God during the sharing of the sacraments?
7. How might God's presence be expressed through the sacraments in a deacon's ministry?
8. How do scripture, tradition, reason, and experience (the Wesleyan Quadrilateral) inform the decision to preside at the sacraments in a particular ministry context?

# PRISON MINISTRY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TEAM

## Eastern Pennsylvania (EPA) 2024 Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team

- Christmas cards for the incarcerated program – **7280** cards with encouraging messages were delivered to a total of **9** correctional facilities (8 in Pennsylvania, 1 in Texas) for distribution to the incarcerated as a sign of God’s love and care. Thanks to all in EPA and Greater New Jersey (GNJ) who supported and participated in this ministry!
  - Undies for Easter – a great success – thanks to the many who participated from both EPA and GNJ! Underwear needed for those entering incarceration was delivered to the Head Chaplain of the Philadelphia Prison System, including
    - **3096** men’s briefs
    - **2039** men’s undershirts
    - **368** pr socks
- As a bonus, on the day of delivery, the Chaplain led a small group to enter and directly deliver 100 packed bags of briefs, undershirts, and socks, to men in one of the intake pods at the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility.
- Healing communities training was provided to **13** individuals representing both EPA and GNJ, to help congregations and community members learn more about how to help those impacted by the criminal justice system.

## SAFE SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE

Hello Eastern Pennsylvania Conference,

Safe Sanctuaries continued in 2024 with training, in January, June, and September being offered via ZOOM. We also attended all the Tools for Ministry locations in 2024 in person to provide the abbreviated training in the time permitted. Attendance for these was on the low side, but it is my opinion as chair that this was simply due to the many classes being offered at the events and not a negative at all.

In 2024, chair Jacqueline D. Daniszewski, was appointed by Eastern Pennsylvania conference in a new position created to mirror Greater New Jersey, that of Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator. This has been a busy position, consisting of 20 hrs./month with a stipend paid for the position. It requires the certification of each church's Safe Sanctuary policy, some which were done immediately and some which we are still waiting to be updated and/or submitted for review. At this point, 112 of the 376 listed churches have submitted policies which were approved and issued a Certificate of Compliance.

Our group is still a strong and diversified body consisting of 7 members and members of the conference who are invited on a regular basis to join our meetings, including our Chief Finance Officer, conference chancellor, Latino commission coordinator, and Trustee representative. We have recently lost one member due to an increase in appointment hour status, but she will remain available for training when needed.

We had one training in Spanish in 2024 and one training in September for which we hired American Sign Language assistance for a large group in one of our Philadelphia churches who requested this need for their volunteers.

Our current project was looking at the last outdated resolution on computer use in our churches, but we have to await further guidance and input to decide how to move forward with this resolution.

Our committee meets after each training session to discuss items that arose in training and as needed during the year. We are still welcome to new members and would appreciate any who may be interested in joining.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski

Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator/Chair

# SMALL CHURCH NETWORK

## Small Church Network Eastern Pennsylvania Conference 2024 Report

Since 2020, the Small Church Network has brought together clergy and laity from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The group's purpose is to support the work of small churches by providing a place for conversation, support, and enrichment for pastors and laity of the smaller congregations in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Since many pastors of our smaller congregations are Bi-Vocational, the Network has chosen to meet virtually. Often, these congregations are rural or urban, with a growing number of suburban churches experiencing a decline in participation due to the loss of members and attendance during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Network aims to offer programming and discussions that remind smaller congregations they are part of a vital network representing most congregations in America. In the 1980s, Lyle Schaller identified small congregations by attendance. Smaller congregations had up to 80 people in attendance. In 2024, the average attendance in a small congregation does not exceed 60.

The Small Church network, through its programming, focuses on topics that attempt to instill hope in our colleagues by lifting examples of what can be done to not simply preserve our church communities but also provide possibilities for ministry that is Spirit-led, meaningful, and relevant to the church's setting.

Our bi-monthly one-hour Zoom sessions have featured local and national presenters with practical opportunities that can provide hope to the churches and their communities. Our sessions in 2024, funded by a small grant from the Congregational Development Committee of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, have focused on:

- helping local pastors navigate the Annual Statistical Report due by January 31, which was led by District Superintendent Jennifer Freymoyer.
- Rev Dawn Taylor-Storm and Judy Ehninger presented a report on the actions of the General Conference
- Doris Dalton presented a Discipline provision for creating cooperative parishes for our congregations.
- Rev. Josh Good introduced our audience to Christian Endeavor which provides a non-denominational opportunity for small congregations to participate in youth ministry.
- Rev. Dr. David Woolverton addressed the quest of conflict and how to begin to navigate it.

Our attendance has ranged from 10 to 35 depending on the topic and schedule.

We don't have much feedback, but apparently, this group is filling a need for our smaller congregations. One pastor contacted me after missing a session, "Thank you for all of your work in arranging the Bi-Vocational/Small Church Network programs. They have been truly helpful.

"I want to replay several of the presentations, and I need your help"

For the Small Church Network EPA

Rev. Dennis R. Emrick

# UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

United Theological Seminary  
Dayton, Ohio

Since 1871, United Theological Seminary has prepared faithful and fruitful Christian leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ. United welcomes all who are following God's call on their lives, and many are answering God's call! In the 2023-2024 academic year, the seminary served 595 graduate students, making it the second largest of the thirteen United Methodist seminaries in the United States, according to the Association of Theological Schools.<sup>1</sup>

A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 35 states, 21 nations, and 48 denominations, with United Methodists representing the largest group at 30 percent of the student body.<sup>2</sup>

## Academics

In large part, enrollment growth is due to continued interest in United's Houses of Study programs, which offer master's and certificate tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements, and denominations in which they serve.

In summer 2024, United welcomed its inaugural cohort of Doctor of Theology students. The advanced research degree program is conducted primarily from a distance, requiring only four weeks of in-person intensives during the three-year program. During their program, students develop original research with a focus on church renewal.

United's Doctor of Ministry program continues to attract students looking for an advanced professional degree to expand their ministerial and leadership capabilities. In the 2023-2024 school year, 267 students participated in the mentor-led program.

## Finances

United celebrated becoming debt free in May 2024, after making its last payment on a \$3.3 million debt to its endowment. In addition to eliminating the seminary's debt, United has been focused on reducing the educational debt of its students. The Fresh Wind campaign to raise \$10 million for the endowment will expand scholarship opportunities for students for generations to come. With the increase in scholarship gifts from the Fresh Wind campaign and the reduction of United's own debt, the seminary has significantly increased scholarship support for United students.

## Innovation Center

The Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center celebrated the third anniversary since its launch as United's "research and development" hub for ministry practitioners and thought leaders seeking to create and provide innovative resourcing for congregations. In 2024, the Innovation Center engaged over 2,200 participants through more than 30 live webinars, training events and courses.

In Romans 10:14, St. Paul writes: "How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? *And how shall they hear without a preacher?*" United's students and graduates are going out into the world to proclaim the Good News of God's unconditional love. Thanks be to God!

Dr. Kent Millard, President

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<sup>1</sup> ATS 2023-2024 Annual Data Tables (Table 2.12 and Table 2.2-A) on fall 2023 enrollment.

<sup>2</sup> Student data represent unduplicated headcount enrollment for the 2023-2024 academic year. Demographic figures represent those who responded.

# WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

The mission of Wesley Theological Seminary (Wesley DC) is to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church and the world, to advance theological scholarship, and to model a prophetic voice in the public square.

Today, the world needs public servants. Wesley DC remains committed to nurturing future leaders in church and society with theological and spiritual growth and community engagement:

**Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Theological Studies Degrees:** Our diverse programming serves our diverse student population. We offer traditional, brick and mortar, in-person study and flexible, online and hybrid models. Wesley DC is committed to curating space for diversity, community, and (re)imagining ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/study/>

**Doctor of Ministry Degree:** Wesley DC maintains one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs, offering specialized tracks of study for scholars going into local parishes, global missions, or military chaplaincy. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/program/>

**The Hub for Collaboration and Imagination:** Wesley DC envisions a dynamic, Spirit-inspired church that responds to God and neighbor. To that end, we catalyze faith communities and leaders to learn about innovation and spiritual entrepreneurship to enact transformative ministry. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>

**Center for Public Theology:** Wesley DC continues to provide sound theological training for future ministry leaders. We foster an entrepreneurial mindset and the practical skills needed to create ministry models which help the church to remain a vital institution that fosters flourishing. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

**Community Engagement Institute:** Wesley DC offers ground-breaking foundational courses and electives in community engagement, public theology, political theology, and social ethics. <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/about-us/overview-2/>

**The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion:** Wesley DC is thrilled to share two new exhibits, *Un/familiar Terrain*, a creative dialogue between UK-based artist, Michael Magruder, and Artificial Intelligence; and *Notebook*, featuring works by Iranian-born artist, Mojdeh Rezaeipour. We also welcomed Ama BE, a Ghanaian-American transdisciplinary artist exploring African migration ecologies. <https://www.luceartsandreligion.org/>

**Lewis Center for Church Leadership:** The Lewis Center conducts leading edge research for the local church. Wesley DC is pleased to report generous support from the Lilly Endowment; and continued training for clergy and lay leaders. <https://www.churchleadership.com/>

**Call us:** (202) 885-8659 **Email us:** [admissions@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@wesleyseminary.edu)

**Follow us:** Facebook/IG: @WesleySeminary and LinkedIn: @WesleyTheologicalSeminary  
Submitted by Lyvonne Briggs, Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing

# WESLEY FOUNDATION

**Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia (Campus Ministry at Drexel University)**

**Drexel University Student Organization Name: Open Door Christian Community**

## **Annual Report**

Submitted by Executive Director & Campus Chaplain, Rev. Deacon Diana Esposito

Wesley Foundation Board: Victor Gimenez, David Piltz, Joanne Miles, Michael Callahan, Jason Perkowski, Jessica Jushchyn, Ollie Richard, Dawn Taylor-Storm, Na'Asia Ausley, Bill Thompson

2023-2024 Board of Ordained Ministry Vocational Intern: Pratik Chapagain

2024-2025 Board of Ordained Ministry Vocational Interns: Ollie Richard & Sushma Boddupalli

## **2024 Highlights**

We had an awesome year connecting with students for food, prayer stations, community service, social justice conversations, stress reduction, and more!

- Served over 2,200 meals at 34 free dinners for students and staff at Drexel University, with many enjoying seconds, thirds, and taking leftovers home.
- Worked alongside 38 new student volunteers who aided in the weekly dinners.
- Provided \$100 grocery gift cards to 20 students during winter break to help with food costs for those unable to travel home and lacking additional support, the majority of which who are international students.
- Collaborated with The Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, Drexel University Sharing Excess, The Center at Arch Street United Methodist Church, a Civic Engagement professor, and Spiritual and Religious Life to host 3 Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action conversations.
- Partnered with University Lutheran Church to provide more resources, including Sunday worship, young adult small groups, Bible studies, and pastoral support when Deacon Diana is off campus.
- Assembled 100 hygiene backpacks for clients at The Center.
- Donated over 30 meals on two occasions to the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County.



## **Student Quotes**

- “Open Door has greatly impacted my faith journey. I realized that serving meals brings a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment. Witnessing the gratitude and happy faces of those we serve leaves a lasting mark of satisfaction on the heart.” - Sushma, Grad Student & 2025 Board of Ordained Ministry Vocational Intern
- “It's my first time living outside of my parents' house, so they were worried if I was going to eat well and I don't have a lot of money to really spend on food. So having one meal per week to eat food provided by someone else took some stress off of all our shoulders. Additionally, I made new friends I wouldn't have met, and I do like company!” - Arielle, Class of 2026
- “Open Door’s program at Drexel has been a total lifesaver for me. Getting free food every week is like a major stress relief on my wallet, plus it’s cool because it brings everyone together. It’s more than just about the food - it’s like this awesome support system that makes college life way better.” - Edison, Class of 2027
- “[I] love the welcoming atmosphere, and how everyone was inviting and how a safe space was created for queer people.” - Charlie, Class of 2028

## **2024 Thank Yous**

- Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia Board members who meet quarterly to guide our work.
- EPA conference of The UMC staff who expertly manage the challenging areas and ensure we get the answers we need.
- Drexel Spiritual and Religious Life and the staff who support our work for coordinating space and resources so we can be in ministry with Drexel students and staff.
- Student organizations and EPA organizations who have partnered with us for various events.
- Open Door Christian Community student board for your desire to serve with your community.
- Drexel students for joining us at the table each week.

## **2025 Goals**

1. Provide 34 free dinners through-out 2025 on Drexel’s campus to create safe space and build community for unchurched, de-churched, and faith-based individuals.
2. Pair three of the free dinners with "Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action Series" conversations, bringing together student organizations/campus offices and faith-based groups

3. Offer at least one Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for the Student Life Leadership Curriculum by the end of Spring Term 2025.
4. Form at least one small group focusing on student needs/desires for a small group space of at least 3 active students by the end of Spring Term 2025.

### **Partnering with Conference Organizations, Committees, and Local Churches**

The students at the Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia want to continue the Voices of Faith in Social Justice Action conversation series. They are seeking groups who are active in social justice work. They'd love to partner the work of conference organizations, committees, and local churches with Drexel student organizations doing similar work at an upcoming event.

### **Connecting with the Wesley Foundation**

- Let us know when students from your congregations are attending Drexel so we can connect with them and offer support.
- Keep us in your prayer lists
  - Drexel students, staff, and professors
  - Food insecure students
  - The community that surrounds Drexel Univ.
  - God's love to be evident through the ministries of the Wesley Foundation of the City of Philadelphia/Open Door Christian Community
- Secure the financial future of the ministry through your donations.

# RULES OF ORDER

## Article I – Meetings

1. The Annual Conference shall convene each year for the transaction of business as provided by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church and shall consider and act upon such other matters as may properly be brought before it.
2. The Bishop shall appoint the times for holding the Annual Conference. (See Discipline, ¶ 603.2) The Bishop and the Commission on Conference Sessions shall select the place for holding the Conference. (¶ 603.3)
3. Special Sessions may be held as provided by the Discipline. (¶ 603.5)
4. The Bishop assigned shall preside or arrange for another Bishop to preside in case of the Bishop's inability. In the absence of a Bishop, the Conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president *pro tempore* from among the traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a Bishop except ordination. (¶ 603.6)
5. The choice of a visiting Bishop and/or major speakers shall be the prerogative of the Bishop.

## Article II – Organization

1. The sessions shall open with a period of devotion, followed by a call of the roll, including the roll of the local pastors indicated in the Discipline (¶ 605) and include a service of Holy Communion and Memorial Service.
2. A Secretary, Treasurer, and Statistician and such other officers as the Conference may authorize, including assistant secretaries, shall be elected, the Secretary to nominate assistants.
3. The Conference shall establish a “Bar of the Conference” for the seating of its members.
4. The Conference may adopt an agenda prepared by the Bishop and the Commission on Conference Sessions.
5. The Conference Secretary shall assign Tellers who will be available for tabulation of written ballots as required in Plenary Sessions. Count votes will be counted by the Conference Secretarial Staff.
6. The Conference Secretary shall provide for teams of Pages who will be assigned for each Plenary Session to assist the distribution of printed reports and materials pertinent to business pending before the Plenary Session. These materials are to be provided to an Associate Secretary designated by the Conference Secretary.
  - a. Only authorized materials pertinent to Plenary Sessions business shall be distributed on the floor of conference. Agencies, institutions, and groups interested in provided promotional or informational material may do so by distributing it at the doors using their own personnel. Such material shall clearly identify the sponsoring agency, institution, or group.
  - b. The Commission on Conference Sessions shall not bar the distribution of informational or promotional material handled in accordance with 6.a.

## Article III – Clergy Session

A Clergy Session of Clergy Members and the Lay Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be held for the purposes defined by the Discipline of The United Methodist Church.

#### **Article IV – Duties of Officers**

The responsibilities and duties of officers shall be the general duties pertaining to these offices, those prescribed by the Discipline and such other duties as the Conference may from time to time direct.

#### **Article V – Bonds and Audits**

All treasurers, other officers, trustees, and persons handling funds or securities of the Conference or any board, commission, committee, or other agency thereof shall be bonded in appropriate amounts. All accounts of treasurers and trustees shall be audited by experienced disinterested public accountants or certified public accountants as provided by the Discipline. The auditor's reports and recommendations shall be submitted to the Council on Finance and Administration.

#### **Article VI – Commission on Conference Sessions**

There shall be a Commission on Conference Sessions whose responsibility, under the direction of the Bishop, shall be to prepare an agenda and arrange the program of the Annual Session. This shall include responsibility for soliciting reports from all Conference agencies and other reporting groups; caring for the physical arrangements at the site of Annual Conference; caring for all expenses mandated by the Conference; and planning all inspirational and devotional periods.

#### **Article VII – Reports**

All boards, commissions, councils, societies, corporations, and other agencies related to the Conference shall receive notice of the time and person to whom reports of such bodies that are to be published in the Journal shall be sent.

#### **Article VIII – Resolutions**

1. Resolutions shall be invited from local churches, conference agencies, conference related institutions, or individual church members. The deadline for receiving these resolutions shall be set by the Conference Secretary and shall be at least thirty days prior to Annual Conference. A notice to this effect along with the name and address of the person to whom resolutions shall be sent and the deadline date shall be appropriately publicized.
2. Resolutions shall be printed and distributed to the members of Annual Conference at least ten days prior to the Annual Conference session. These resolutions shall have a first priority upon the work of the Annual Conference. A Consent Calendar may be established by the Agenda Committee to assist the work of the Annual Conference. Any resolution may be lifted from the Consent Calendar upon the request by 10 members at the time the Consent Calendar is presented to the Annual Conference for adoption.
3. Resolutions received after the announced deadline or during the session of Annual Conference will be reviewed by the Agenda Committee. In consultation with the Presiding Bishop, this Committee will determine which resolutions will be printed for distribution to Conference members. The Agenda Committee shall include the Conference Secretary, the Chairperson of Conference Sessions, The Executive Director of Congregational Transformation/Connectional Ministries, Conference Lay Leader, and The Dean of the Cabinet.

#### **Article IX – Disposition of Reports and Resolutions**

When presented to the Conference Plenary Session a resolution or report becomes the possession of the body, to be disposed of as it will, including amendment, substitution, etc.

## Article X – Rules of Order Debate

1. A member desiring to address the Conference shall proceed to a microphone and, after recognition by the presiding officer, shall first state clearly said member's name and charge represented.

2. No member who has the floor may be interrupted, except by the presiding officer for a breach of order, or a misrepresentation, or to bring to the attention of the Conference that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a question of a very high privilege.

a. Motions - Members may speak only to a motion before the Conference or to offer a motion. Speeches shall not precede a motion.

b. Motion for Previous Question - A motion for the "previous question" shall be made from a microphone, and shall not be in order unless at least two members have spoken for and two against the motion. A motion for the "previous question" shall not be appended to or supported by a speech. If in order, debate shall end, and a vote be taken on said motion. The mover shall state whether the motion applies only to a proposed amendment to a motion, or all that is before it. A motion for the "previous question" must be sustained by a two-thirds vote of members within the Bar of the Conference.

c. Motion to suspend the Rules - A motion to suspend the rules shall be sustained by two-thirds of the members within the Bar of the Conference.

d. Voting - Voting shall be by raising the hand except when a standing count vote is called for, or when electronic voting is used. When a standing count vote is called for, members voting in favor of the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted. Then those voting against the motion shall rise and remain standing until counted, followed by those abstaining. In case of a disability that prevents voting in the prescribed fashion (i.e. standing) the presiding officer shall recognize the intended vote of that member by another means so as not to disenfranchise any member.

e. Motions and Resolutions to be in Writing - All motions and resolutions shall be written and copies submitted to the presiding officer and the secretary.

f. Length of Time Granted on the Floor of Annual Conference Session:

i. Once recognized by the Bishop as Presiding Officer of the Annual Conference Session, any delegate seated within the bar of the Annual Conference or other person granted permission to speak within the bar of the Annual Conference may speak up to three minutes. A one minute warning may be given and after that time has elapsed, the Presiding Officer may interrupt that member and terminate permission to speak.

ii. The privilege of addressing the Annual Conference Session is extended to groups and individuals making presentations on the adopted agenda, with clearly understood time commitments specified in advance. A one minute signal before the end of their allotted time may be given, and after that time, the Presiding Officer may interrupt those persons, groups, or individuals and terminate permission to speak.

iii. Other Parliamentary Rules - Other parliamentary rules shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (latest version).

g. Plenary Sessions - In the Plenary Sessions, members desiring to offer motions which are not scheduled as part of an Agenda item (Art II.4) shall confer in advance with the Chairperson of the Commission on Conference Sessions.

## **Article XI – Conference Journal**

1. The Conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings, and other items required by the Discipline, and shall publish annually a Journal which shall include the items required by the Discipline to be included in its Journal. The Journal shall incorporate the addresses and telephone numbers of the pastors, lay members and alternates, church lay leaders, certified lay speakers, and other such information, as the Conference shall direct. Agencies related to the Conference shall bear the precise corporate titles.
2. At the recommendation of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, during the Fall Budget Session, Nov. 9, 1996, the Annual Conference approved an action to charge for the Journal rather than have it supplied at no charge, beginning in 1997.

## **Article XII – Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Other Organizations Required by the Discipline**

1. The various boards, commissions, committees, and other organizations required to be a part of the Annual Conference structure are as set forth in the Discipline, as the same may from time to time be amended, provided, however, that the Conference may refer to such organizations such matters as are not inconsistent there with.
2. Additional boards, commissions, committees, and organizations may be authorized by the Conference, where it is deemed inappropriate or inexpedient to refer a subject proposal to an existing organization.
3. Ex-officio members who have been appointed or elected to serve the Conference on boards, commissions, committees, and other organizations shall have the right to vote. Advisory members shall have the right to voice without vote.

## **Article XIII – Tenure on Boards, etc.**

NO person may serve on the same board, commission, council, or committee of this Conference for a longer continuous period than two quadrennium except those serving in an ex-officio capacity or other position involving experience making replacement inexpedient when upon the request of such organization to the nominating committee and exception may be recommended to the Conference. It is understood that the maximum term is ten years or two quadrenniums. Persons serving two years or less on a board or agency will be considered eligible for the two quadrennium tenure.

1. The period of service of all elected to office shall begin with the adjournment of the Conference Session in which they were elected.
2. All boards, agencies, and commissions, required by the Discipline to organize annually shall reorganize within two weeks of the Annual Conference and the names of the officers shall be reported to the Conference Secretary for inclusion in the Journal.
3. The Officiary of the local church shall be elected to serve on the basis of the calendar year.
4. No person shall serve on more than one major agency (i.e., boards, commissions, councils, divisions) of the Annual Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members and minority ethnic members of our Conference who are permitted to serve on at least two Conference agencies.
5. No person shall serve on the Board of Directors/Board of Trustees of an incorporated agency affiliated with the Annual Conference, whose board members are elected by the Conference, except in the case of ex-officio members of boards, and ethnic minority members of the Conference who shall follow the rule of the Conference and that this rule be implemented in the immediate future years by the process of

attrition.

#### **Article XIV – Attendance**

Punctual and regular attendance of the members of the Conference is expected except in cases of emergency. Those requesting to be excused must make the request in writing to the Conference Secretary. (§ 602.8) In the case of anticipated absence of lay members, arrangement should be made to have the alternate lay member seated. Every charge should be represented at all business sessions. (§ 602.7)

#### **Article XV – Financial Reports**

All boards and agencies shall submit annually financial reports reflecting assets and liabilities as well as receipts and disbursements, which shall be printed in the Journal.

#### **Article XVI – Election Process for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**

The Nomination process for the election of delegates to the 2028 General Conference and 2028 Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed by the following procedures:

1. Nominating petitions will be sent to clergy members in full connection and lay members of the Annual Conference at least three months prior to the Annual Conference session.
2. Nominating petitions will allow for a maximum of 10 nominees. Persons will be nominated when their names have been identified on 10 nominating petitions. As in the election process, the nominations process shall allow clergy to nominate clergy and laity to nominate laity.
3. Nominees shall fulfill the Disciplinary and Constitutional requirements outlined in the Constitution, paragraphs 35 and 36.
4. Nominating petitions shall be returned to the Conference Secretary no later than March 1, 2027.
5. The Board of Lay Ministry may make additional laity nominations by March 10, 2027.
6. After March 10, 2027, all nominees will be provided an acceptance form. Nominees will return their acceptance form by March 31, 2027, for their names to appear on the ballot.
7. Nominees will provide biographical information and a brief written statement by March 31, 2027. The list of nominees, biographical material and statements will be published and/or distributed through as many means as possible.
8. From the nominee acceptance forms, the Conference Secretary will prepare separate clergy and laity ballots. The ballots will include spaces for write-ins.
9. Nominations will be accepted from the floor provided a nominating petition fulfilling #2 above and an acceptance form are duly presented. Five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement are required for immediate distribution.
10. Election shall be by majority of valid ballots cast on each ballot, clergy and laity voting separately.
11. Balloting for the specified number of delegates to General Conference will begin first. These persons are elected as delegates to General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference. After their election, the additional number of persons to be elected as Jurisdictional Conference delegates shall begin. Upon completion of these elections, a final ballot will be taken to elect three alternates to Jurisdictional

Conference; the three persons receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

12. Judges of Elections shall be appointed by the Conference Secretary to oversee the tabulation of ballots, certify the election of delegates, and convey the ballots and report to the Conference Secretary.

13. All Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be alternate delegates to the General Conference in order of their election.

14. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the first clergy and laity alternates to attend the General Conference. The Annual Conference will assume the costs of the six alternates to attend the Jurisdictional Conference.

#### **Article XVII - Nomination of Episcopal Candidates**

1. The Annual Conference shall, in the year preceding the conference session during which Episcopal candidates are to be nominated, solicit potential nominees from all the members both lay and clergy of the Annual Conference. Each member may nominate the number of Elders for which there are vacancies in the jurisdiction to be filled, provided the nominees are Elders in good standing in the Conference. Any Elder who receives at least 10 nominations will have their biographical details and personal statement published and/or distributed through as many means as possible for study prior to the electing conference session.

2. At the EPA annual conference session immediately prior to the next regular session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the EPA jurisdictional delegation may present one or more names to the annual conference for endorsement. The jurisdictional delegation may also choose to present no names to the annual conference. If the delegation places one or more names before the conference, annual conference delegates shall then proceed to confirm the recommendation(s) of the delegation by a 2/3 vote by those present and voting. Likewise, if the delegation recommends no persons, the annual conference shall vote to accept that recommendation by the same 2/3 vote.

3. If the opening ballot fails to obtain the necessary 2/3 majority to confirm the delegation's recommendation(s), additional nominations from the floor shall then be in order, provided.

a. The ordained elder(s) in full connection being nominated from the floor shall have given consent prior to the making of the nomination and will at the time the nomination is made present a nominating petition to the secretary of the annual conference with the names and signatures of ten persons, laity or clergy, who are members of the Annual Conference.

b. At least five hundred copies of a biographical profile and statement for such nominees will be available and distributed to annual conference delegates at the time the nomination is made.

c. A minimum of four hours shall elapse, after all nominations have been received from the floor, before a ballot is taken.

4. The annual conference shall then proceed to endorse a nominee (or nominees) by ballot as follows: all nominees shall be listed on the ballot, and a ballot taken. Any person(s) receiving a 2/3 vote would move forward as the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference; provided that annual conference delegates may not vote on any ballot for more candidates than the number of open Episcopal seats anticipated at the ensuing Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

5. After five such ballots have been taken, a motion to discontinue balloting shall then be in order, requiring a simple majority. Any persons who have received the requisite 2/3 majority shall be considered the endorsed Episcopal nominee(s) of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. If no person has obtained the required 2/3 majority, then no person shall be considered to have been endorsed by the



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

6. The Jurisdictional delegation shall not be bound by any action of the delegation or the annual conference regarding confirmed and/or endorsed nominees when the Jurisdictional delegates cast their votes at Jurisdictional Conference (p 405.1).

#### **Article XVIII - Petitions to General Conference**

For any General Conference resolution or proposed disciplinary change, the required vote to approve such resolutions shall require a 3/4 majority of votes cast. These resolutions will be placed at the beginning of the Conference Sessions.

#### **Article XIX – Amendments**

These Rules and Regulations may be amended at any regular session of the Conference provided six hours shall elapse after the first reading before action is taken. A majority vote shall be necessary to adopt. Amendment may be made at a Special Session provided the proposed amendment is incorporated in the call.

#### **Article XX**

The Conference Secretary as editor of the Journal shall be authorized to make editorial changes to paragraph numbers to reflect the language of the current Book of Discipline. The Secretary will be further authorized to change the years listed in Article XVI as appropriate for subsequent general conference.